

Red Indians — a modern day paradox



Mounted Indian warriors early this century

By Solmaz Dabiri
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON — In countless 'Wild West' movies, they have been portrayed as savage prairie tribes, either massacring pioneer white families in wagon trains or themselves being massacred by sword-wielding cavalrymen. It's mostly Hollywood hokum — but in much of the world today it forms the basis of many people's understanding of America's 'Red Indians'.

At best, even in white America, awareness of Indians has long been coloured by a nostalgic sentimentality over an era long since dead. This image gradually is giving way, however, to the real dimensions of today's Native Americans.

In the most advanced society in the world, they are a paradox. On one hand they share a common bond and have common interests and problems; on the other, they are a study in diversity, separated by differences in language, customs and lifestyle.

There is the Indian as a New Capitalist. He is a cattle man on a ranch, breeding and marketing large herds of livestock. He is a forester managing thousands of acres of timber; an industrialist and economic planner, perhaps investing millions of dollars in tourism. He also is a commercial fisherman, considering an Indian common market, employing the principles of free enterprise to create his own economic independence.

That's one side of the picture.

On the other, half of today's American Indian population of 1.4 million continues to live in or near 'reservations,' where jobs are largely unskilled and low paid, where health and education facilities often are poor. The United States today has 272 reservations, each in effect a small nation, where Indians have land, borrow, pay taxes and have a tribal government.

Land is sacred to Indians, but nearly all tribal land is held in trust by the Federal government for the tribes, and there is no general law that permits a tribe to sell its land. Individuals also own trust land, and with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior may sell that land. If an individual Indian wishes to extinguish the trust title to his land and hold title like any other citizen, he can do so only after the Secretary determines he is capable of managing his own affairs.

Indians have been citizens of the United States since 1924, but only a minority have become full participants in the American system. On and off reservations, the

majority live with devastating unemployment, sub-standard housing and lack of social services. They have the lowest income, the highest suicide rate — three times greater than among non-Indians — the poorest education and the fewest economic opportunities.

To be Indian means different things to different people. For the US government and most tribal governments, 'Indian' is a legal definition of parentage and percentages. Of the 20 million people in the United States who may have some Indian blood, most do not identify as Indians or Native Americans. There is no comprehensive definition of an Indian.

Services provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs are generally restricted to members of nationally recognised tribes, but tribal membership criteria vary greatly and are set by the tribes themselves. Since the founding of the United States of America, the constitution has specifically named Indian tribes as 'nations within a nation,' each retaining rights of self-government. Never a simple relationship, the role of the US government developed into that of a trustee, with the responsibility to protect and enhance the property, people and self-government of Indian tribes.

For decades, the world of the Indians has been dominated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a professional government bureaucracy of some 18,000 employees. Some Indians resent it and resist it; others look to it for aid.

Indians want the trust relation-



Indian chief of the early 20th century

ship, but not the bureaucratic burden, nor the paternalism that goes with the package. Some believe that Bureau policies — especially in the past two decades — have created more dependency on the

Federal government. Tribal economies of most reservations remain depressed. Jobs generally are unskilled and low-paid. Half the population lives in rural and isolated areas, long on scenery

but short on economic resources. Many reservations have inadequate water, sewage disposal, communications and electricity.

During the 1970s, however, some Indians found new opportunities in the economy. The 1973-74 energy crisis and rising oil prices sent the fortunes of some tribes soaring. Suddenly, Indian lands long thought worthless were discovered to be rich in natural resources — including one quarter of the country's strip of coal, along with large deposits of uranium, oil and gas. These tribes began demanding higher royalties for their resources and greater control over the development process.

The result, for some, was a bonanza.

Most of the money, however, went only to a few tribes, much of it to meet the needs of desperately poor populations. In 1975 the Self-Determination Act provided a formula for allowing the Indians to run more of their own affairs. But even with this policy, it is estimated that 90 to 95 per cent of Indians remain dependent on the Federal government.

Self-determination raises an awkward question: what do Indians want and aspire to? The answer, they say, is as it always has been — survival. Not individual survival, but the continued existence of distinct, independent tribal communities. Among other things, Indian rights leaders say, that means more jobs, better health care, functioning economies, good schools, and a Federal government that keeps its promises.

Federal subsidies to Indians have been cut steadily under the Reagan administration, and many from those tribes with mineral rights, few have been able to make up for the loss of such support. The Indians of today no longer wear feathered headdresses, get wear feathered headdresses, many wear suits and silk ties. Indian leaders do not hold court in tents; they meet in luxury hotels. They do not carry bows and arrows to fight the 'white man'; they use the courts and Congress. They no longer have names like 'Wounded Knee' or 'Broken Arrow,' but rather Andrew Field and Ted Simmers.

The image of the American Indian may be changing, but the quality of life for the majority has changed little since those days of the Wild West when the wagon train pioneers from the east found their land.

Solmaz Dabiri is a former editor and writer with the British Broadcasting Corporation in London. She now is a freelance journalist based in Washington.



An Indian family today

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Drastic steps needed to arrest Lebanese strife

By Wafa Abdel Hamid
Special to The Star

"LEBANON IS the victim of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the victim of the game of international balance of power in the Middle East, the victim of severe Arab conflicts and contradictions. It is also the victim of the great burden of the presence of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians on its land."

These are the words of the secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry Mr Fouad Al Turk who also added that the Lebanese problem is at the centre of the Middle East conflict. As a result of the Palestinian problem, Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory and Israeli intervention in Lebanese internal affairs has made Lebanon become a stage for international meddling and crisis development.

Delivering a lecture at the World Affairs Council, Mr Turk noted that the war in Lebanon, in its causes and implications, was not a civil strife. He attributed the continuation of the war to two factors: internal and regional. These are represented by the Arab-Israeli conflict, and super powers rivalry in the Middle East.

Internal factors, he said, are caused by differences in beliefs and ideologies. Reconciliation and unity among factions could only be achieved on the basis of justice, equality and equal-opportunity status for all.

This, Mr Turk stressed, would be accomplished by completely ending the war, achieving permanent security, endorsing amendments to the Lebanese constitutional laws. It also includes the rejection of any attempts at division and by rebuilding Lebanon from the cruel destruction of the war.

On the regional aspect of the war, represented by the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr Turk stressed on total Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, coupled with the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 425 of 1978 and 506 of 1982. He pointed out that the Lebanese problem was tackled by Resolution 425 that calls for total and uncondi-



Mr Fouad Al Turk — part of Lebanon's problem is attributed to explosion of Arab conflicts

tional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon while the Unifil is given more permanent role to play.

Part of the problem is also attributed to the explosion of Arab conflicts on the Lebanese territory, added Mr Turk. He pointed out that Arab solidarity, unity and co-operation could speed up the restoration of peace in Lebanon. He called on the external elements — particularly the US and the Soviet Union — to help achieve a lasting settlement to the Lebanese problem.

"The Lebanese problem should be tackled separately from the Middle East problem," and continued that it would persist without regional and international help. He warned that the strife could expand and escalate to affect the stability and security of the whole Middle East.



Parts of West Beirut — funds needed for reconstruction

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Hussein back home

His Majesty King Hussein returned home last Friday from Damascus, after holding talks with President Hafez Al Assad. The talks covered efforts to bolster Arab solidarity and to convene an international Middle East conference. King Hussein also held similar talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein when he was in Baghdad. King Hussein and President Assad held two closed sessions at Presidential Palace in Damascus and the talks mainly with ending the differences among Arab countries and promotion of bilateral relations.

King Hussein receives new president

His Majesty King Hussein has received at Al Nadwa Palace Dr Amin Al Sallit, who has been appointed as president of the American University of Beirut (AUB). Dr Al Sallit is the first Arab to be appointed as president of the university, the most prestigious university in the Middle East. King Hussein congratulated Dr Al Sallit on his appointment.

Queen Noor at a performance

Her Majesty Queen Noor last Friday attended the final performance of the musical 'Al Tareeq Al Jadid', a play produced by the Marj Al Hussein Foundation in co-operation with the Department of Culture and Arts. The play will now be staged around the Kingdom.

Preparations for Jerash festival

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor last Thurs-



His Majesty King Hussein hosts iftar for high-ranking army officers at the Al Hussein Sports City

day preparations for the sixth Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts to be held this summer, were reviewed at a meeting grouping members of the Jerash Festival committee. The meeting discussed the final programme of the activities to be held during the festival which will involve 13 participating countries. The idea of organizing mobile theatres during the festival which is scheduled for 7-31 July in cultural activities in other parts of the Kingdom, was endorsed by the committee.

Prime Minister to visit Greece

The Prime Minister Zaid Rifal is expected to pay an official visit to Greece from 1-3 June accompanied by Minister of Education Mr Thouqan Hindawi, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry Mr Muhammad Saqqaf, undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Salem Al Lawzi, Prime Minister's Advisor Dr Fawaz Abu Al Ghanam, Prime Minister's economic advisor

Dr Fawaz Al Tarawneh, Aktham Al Qusous Prime Minister's office director, and president of the Royal Jordanian Mr Ali Ghandour and the Jordanian ambassador to Athens.

New digital telephone

The Minister of Communications Mr Muhieddine Al Hussein inaugurated the Marj Al Hamam new digital telephone exchange. The exchange was executed by the Telecommunications Corpora-

tion (TCC) as part of the five-year plan and was put into commercial service on 30 April when some 1,030 subscribers (previously served by Wadi Essir exchange) were cutover to this new exchange. The installed exchange has an initial capacity of 800 subscribers which can be expanded gradually to almost 40,000 subscribers. The inauguration of Marj Al Hamam switch coincides with the TCC's celebration of World Telecommunication Day, on 17 May.

Campaign to halt smoking

The World Health Assembly (WHA) has decided to consider 7 April each year as a day free of smoking throughout the world. This decision was taken as a response to a Jordanian proposal that requested that member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) to observe a non-smoking day on 7 April in an attempt to convince people to quit smoking. The proposal was made in Geneva during the WHA meetings which ended last Sunday.

Jordanian-Polish health agreement

An agreement on co-operation in health affairs, including the exchange of experts, was signed in Warsaw last Sunday between the health ministers of Jordan and Poland. Jordan's Health Minister Dr Zaid Hamzah was briefed on the medical education system in Poland. He discussed co-operation between the Jordan Medical Council and the Polish Medical associations and institutions. Dr Hamzah is heading Jordan's delegation to the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Polish health committee which discusses means of promoting bilateral co-operation.

Nursing — planning for the future

By Wafa Abdel Hamid
Special to The Star

THE MINISTRY of Education has decided to open the nursing school for males. The school, which is the first of its kind in Jordan, will start in the 1988 scholastic year in one of the secondary schools. Later on, the school will cover all parts of the Kingdom.

Dr Atwan, director of vocational training at the Ministry of Education, said at a ceremony for the opening of the 10th class of female students from nursing school that co-operation between the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Health and the University of Jordan for the preparation of a teaching team for the school sections.

Dr Atwan outlined the development of nursing education in Jordan since 1964 and said that in the Ministry of Education introduced courses for assistant nurses to help provide hospitals with trained personnel. There were 25 female students then, at the comprehensive school Al Shamileh. By 1984, the number of students had increased to 1,099. Dr Atwan said that the Ministry of Education has the necessity of undertaking measures in this concern.

Dr Atwan stressed the importance of opening the nursing profession to males, at the secondary level. There is a shortage of male assistant nurses, he said, despite the availability of jobs for them. Also there is a continuous demand for male assistant nurses from other Arab countries for social and practical reasons such as the readiness and easiness of transport and duty time.

According to a Ministry of Education data the country will need at least 11,000 assistant nurses up to the year 1990. Five thousand nurses are expected to graduate from now until the end of the Five-Year Plan. An expected shortage of 6,000 assistant nurses is envisaged. As a result the Ministry of Education plans to open new branches to train female students in nursing in 11 vocational schools.

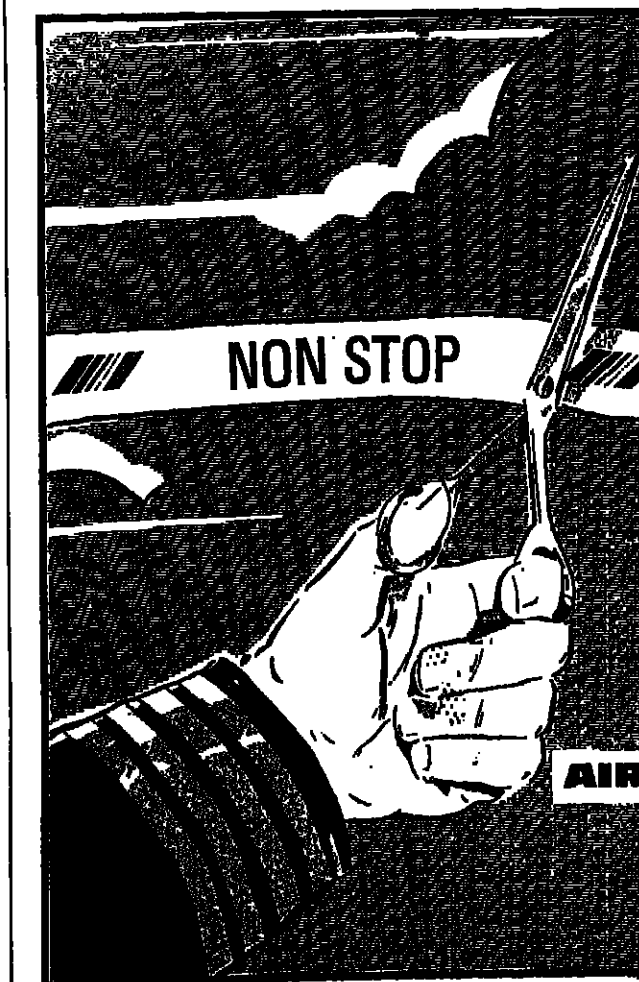
In addition to this, Dr Atwan confirmed the Ministry's intention on improving the quality and services of the nursing profession. Special attention is being focused on scientific skills of graduates through hospitals. The Ministry of Health, private hospitals, the University of Jordan and the Royal Medical Services hospitals.

In order to improve the quality of the nursing profession and nursing services, special committees have been set up by the above mentioned hospitals for the supervision of the students final training and to improve the practical training examinations. The Nursing Education Development Committee has the necessity of undertaking measures in this concern.

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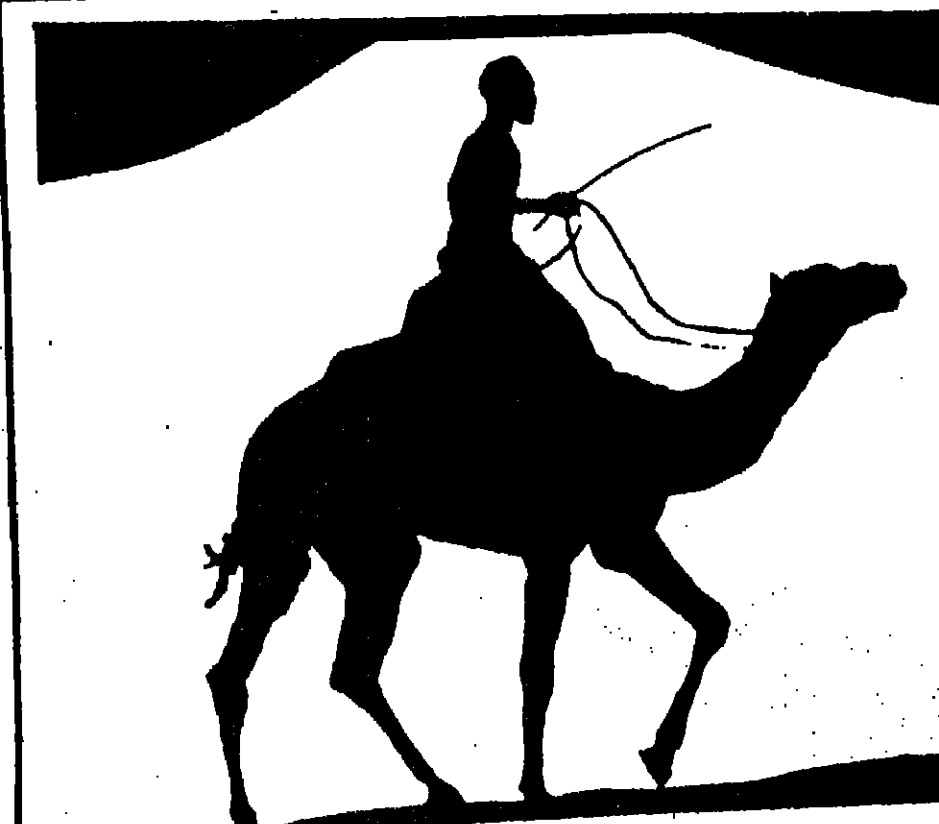
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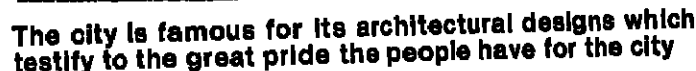
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Present, Future



As Mr Azzam states, 'the ultimate purpose of the SDC is to continue Salt's pioneering position as a leader in social, cultural and educational endeavours.'

A newly arrived foreigner in Salt was recently fascinated by a young boy who stood with upraised arm shouting "Salt, Salt" when the latter saw the foreigner pass. Mr. Abu Azzam realizes this enthusiasm and acts upon it. Thus SDC has established the first Gifted and Enrichment Youth Centre in the Arab World. This Centre is the predecessor of the Jubilee Gifted school. There have been many generous contributions made to support the noble and beneficial projects undertaken by SDC. The Canadian Embassy recently donated a language laboratory to enhance the Centre's facilities. The British Council in Jordan has donated many books to the centre's library. The SDC is currently working with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote the cultural industry of handicraft training.

USAID

"Headgear weighs almost two kilos"

Architectural designs

The architectural designs of Salt's older buildings aren't simply fanciful facades. In fact, they represent the pride these people have in their town. The artwork found in the buildings are a testimony to the great dignity and esteem they have for their city. Buildings were made from yellow marble stone that was quarried locally. These golden stones emit a sense of warmth and give an ear-king, the sensation to the town. The kind of architectural form that exalts in Salt is hard to specify according to Miss Lynn Fakhrury, an architect originally from Salt. The reason being the multifarious assortment of designs and forms. The variety of designs is a collection of

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Students have to choose from offered and class-

modern Salti wear consist (Madruga) — a long black decorated on the periphery to cuffs, sides and chest with black embroidery, A (Mendeel) black handkerchief is wrapped the head and neck and tied off with a loosely tied white scarf. The simplicity of this dress is obvious especially when compared to the older clothing.

women wore this dress out of the home especially when they were carrying water from the springs in the valleys. There would be young men waiting to catch some of the adorned women. The romanticism is especially significant in terms of the costume and its only purpose was beauty. And truly, it was beautiful.

... called (Khaka), three
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1987

The crowning feature of this dress was a silk headress known as a (Hatah) or (Ajaj). The latter meaning tyre since its thickness and roundness resembled a car tyre. The headress weighed nearly two kilos and was proudly displayed. The (Hatah) was either strewn with red or black velvet. The red being worn by young unmarried women and the black by older or widowed women. Now, young unmarried women bluish at the thought of wearing the traditional costumes, and the older women tenderly stroke the unused dresses with blushes of remembrances of the days at the springs in the valleys of Salt.

Handicraft Training Centre

The newly constructed Cultural Centre of Salt will be the premises for a Handicraft Training Centre which will be an arena lending itself to the artistic development of the local handicrafts of pottery and rug weaving.

The idea for a local Handicrafts Centre was initiated by the Ministry of Planning which adopted under the heading of Social Development Projects included in the five-year-plan of the Balqa region. The SDC is working in co-operation with the Italian government which is represented by (COTECNO), a company involved in technological and co-operative activities in developing countries in the field of training.

The project is being financed by the Italian government at a cost of JD 680,000. Mr Marco Spada is the co-ordinating manager of the project and is currently in Jordan to set the project in motion. He is accompanied by Professor Enrico Bertonotta who is researching the historical background of the local handicraft industry.

8- The research involves the gathering of information on specific

at a school ceremony in the early

Prof. Bertorotta wants to gather detailed and technical information in this field. Already, it's known that 85 per cent of handicraft activity is done at home by elderly individuals. The remaining 15 per cent by philanthropic institutions. The SDC's aim in creating this Handicraft Centre is to initially preserve and strengthen the social and cultural traditions of Salt.

This Tectonic outline is specifically aimed at the younger generations of Salt who evidently show a decreased interest in learning these skills. The technical procedures directed by the Italians will be jointly carried out with the help of a Jordanian administration. Prof. Rinaldo Vannini is the Italy's local co-ordinator of the Training Centre. He is the dean of an academic artistic institute in Florence. His duties involve the organization of equipment, which will be shipped from Italy, assign the experts and monitor its initial progress.

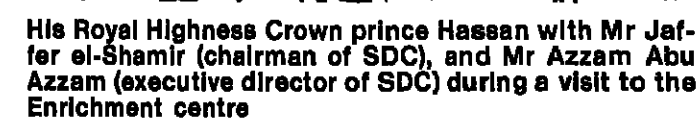
Prof. Vannini is particularly concerned with and sensitive to the need to cling to the traditional forms of pottery making and rug-weaving whilst developing quality products. The handicraft training centre will also serve as a central information outlet on handicraft endeavours. The project is aimed at secondary schools students so as to encourage their involvement. Tentatively, the programme will design encompasses three levels; beginners, intermediate and advanced. The first level will focus on basic training. The second will concentrate on specific training and the third level will allow trainees to design and manufacture products which will be exhibited and sold. Each level with serve a maximum of 10 students.

This four-year pilot plan commences activities in October this year. Currently, the workshops and laboratories are being built at the Cultural Centre. Classes will be offered in the afternoon free of charge to selected individuals. In the future, other handicraft skills will be taught such as raffia-work which is basket weaving with the use of palm fibers, in addition to embroidery, wood and glasswork and traditional jewel making as well as silver and copper engraving.

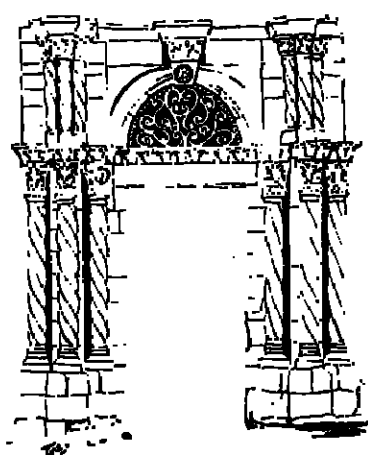
Scholarships will be offered Italy with other follow-up programmes. The activities provided by the Centre are a diffusion of training as well as study and development. The Salt Development Corporation wants to cast traditional skills in the mold of the modern society, thus weaving and embedding the patterns of the past into design of the future.

A grainy, high-contrast black and white photograph of a building facade. The image is very dark and noisy, with a speckled texture. In the lower center, there are three dark, arched openings, possibly windows or doorways. The overall appearance is that of a low-quality photocopy or a very old, degraded photograph.

50's



City of Salt: 'A brief historical overview



By Azzam M. Abu Azzam
Special to The Star

THE NAME Es-Salt pronounced as in (salt) may have been derived from the Latin word "Saltus", which means a mountainous or hilly forest; (other variations of the name are Es-Salt, Al-Salt, Szalt).

The earliest documented recording was in the sixth century AD when Herodotus listed it in his book "Synecdemus" as "Saltion", a town in Byzantine Palestine.

During the 19th century, artists, writers, tourists, pilgrims and explorers from Europe and America travelled throughout the Arab World recording their experience and discoveries. Among the explorers was Roland De Vaux, the first to discover the ancient remains on the Tell (hill) at Aln Jador (presently where the famous Salt High School is located), a small sanctuary where great amounts of Roman and Byzantine pottery were discovered.

In 1978, a Roman tomb complex (cave) was discovered in Wadi Jador just three kilometres west of Es-Salt. Adjacent to the tomb cave which has been carved from a natural cave, were vats and olive presses, as well as an elaborately framed portrait.

Presumably, the landowner, for whom the tomb was cut, solemnly held a scroll which perhaps contained accounts of local vineyards.

Dr A. Haddide Jordan's Director-General of Antiquities was able to prove from the artifacts — the relief style coins and pottery and from the tomb architecture — that the tomb had been used in the third and fourth centuries AD. De Vaux also described two other ancient tomb complexes in the vicinity.

Thus, from literary and archaeological evidence, the city of Es-Salt functioned as a substantial town in East Jordan in pre-Islamic times. During the Islamic period, Es-Salt played a significant role as a strategic place for commerce and transport, other than being the central source of supply of goods to the Bedouin in Balqa land. Actually, if Es-Salt had not existed, it would have been invented so as to provide security for transport between Syria and Palestine.

The most notable monument of the Islamic period at Es-Salt is the castle, built by the Arab ruler, Umar ibn al-Khattab, in 634 AD. The castle was built by Al-Malik Mu'azzam ibn. He built the castle during his rule as a monarch in Damascus from 1218-1227 AD.

In the year 1260, the castle was destroyed by the Tartars, but after one year, it was rebuilt by Sultan Balbars. Abu al-Fida, the 14th century Arab historian who wrote "Es-Salt" is a small city and fortress. At the foot of the citadel, a beautiful spring emerges, whose water follows a course that enters the city. Es-Salt has numerous gardens. Its raisins, which are widely exported are famous and it is a well-built and well-populated city.

Rev. A.E. Notthey visited Es-Salt during his expedition to the

east of Jordan in 1872. He recorded, "the town, the first we had met with on the East of Jordan, is well built, and the environment well cultivated, with figs, olives and pomegranates. It is also noted for its raisins." It should be noted that some believe that the universally famous name "Sultanas" as a designation for good raisins, is derived from the name Es-Salt.

N. Hamilton in his book "Both sides of the Jordan" written in 1928, emphasizes such belief "A belt of cultivation surrounds Es-Salt... Vineyards and olive yards, gardens of figs and apricots hedged in by pomegranates... The raisins and sultanas that I had so much admired in the streets of Jerusalem came mostly from the neighbourhood of Es-Salt."

Goodrich in his book "In a Syrian Saddle", 1905, has the following, "It was quite a useful enlargement of notions to most of us to find out that the familiar raisin used in puddings is not, as the grocers spell it, "Sultana" with some vague notion of an oriental association with the Sultan, but "Saltana" and that it comes almost entirely from Es-Salt. The fruit used for this purpose is a small grape without seeds."

On 13 July, 1812, the Anglo-Swiss explorer John L. Burchardt who rediscovered "Petra" visited Es-Salt and wrote in his book "Travels in Syria and the Holy Land" that "Szalt", is the only inhabited place in the province of Belqa, and its inhabitants are quite independent. The Pasha of Damascus had several times endeavoured in vain to subdue them. The population consists of about 400 Musulman and 80 Christian families. He also noted that, the greater part of the population of Szalt is agricultural, a few are weavers... Vast quantities grapes are grown, which are dried and sold "in Jerusalem". He also recorded, "The only public expense incurred by Szaltess is that of entertaining travellers: for this purpose, there are four public taverns (Menzel or Medhate), ... and whoever entered there was maintained as long as he chose... Breakfast, dinner, and supper, ... with coffee, are served to strangers, whoever he may be... The expenses incurred by these Menzels are shared among heads of families."

In 1928, Rev. J. Duncan wrote the following in "Quarterly statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund": "The two ridges thus form the amphitheatre. In which stood the main part of the town, including the 'SERAI' — the old city hall which was demolished in early 80's, the bazaar and two Churches. It is a picturesque and beautiful site. The slopes on both sides are steep and covered with dwellings... In the centre of the town is a powerful spring of excellent water."

He added that "there is little doubt in the mind of any who visited Salt that this was a place of great strategic importance from the earliest times. Its strong position, its facility for defence, and the enormous supply of excellent spring water made this an indispensable fact."

According to pilgrims and tourists to the Holy Land in 1875, "the Saltas are courageous and well armed, and having a strong position, they are celebrated for their hospitality, expending large sums on the entertainment of strangers."

In the 1880, the city of Salt became a melting pot for new migration. Some families from Nabulus and other parts of Palestine migrated to Salt and settled there permanently. Among these were Toucan, Nabulsi and Muhyar families, who had later developed into some of the prominent Jordanians.

By the 1890, commercial, social and cultural ties between Palestine, particularly Nabulus and Es-Salt, brought new prosperity and this period was "the start of Salt's finest days". The city had achieved a level of prosperity to match its political importance. Public services were provided with schools, hospitals, government departments and agencies were established, and even a sewage system was installed.

Moreover, wealthy families started building beautifully ornamented large houses. A large number of these houses are still in use today. These houses have become a distinctive architectural hallmark which have given Es-Salt a unique character and charmful atmosphere through the use of the beautiful yellow stone and the popular tripled arches "Salti" window.

In 1915, population in Es-Salt area reached over 25,000. During World War I, Es-Salt remained charming and prosperous.

In 1920, with the end of the war,



'Es-Salt in 1923: Jordan's first secondary school was established and it helped develop the city into a centre of culture'



A rare picture of distinguished personalities in front of the "Sera" — (town hall)

Salt entered a new era when the Emir Abdullah arrived in Es-Salt on 20 October 1921, to establish Trans Jordan with Es-Salt being its seat for brief time, before Amman was chosen to be the capital city for the young country. However, the city continued to be prosperous. Jordan's first secondary school was established in 1923. For many years, this school remained the only one in the country which helped develop the city into a centre for culture and education.

Later, during the same year, the nation's first teachers conference was held there, which gave the city an intellectual veneer and in 1925 the city hosted the first Agricultural Industrial Exhibition in Jordan.

Es-Salt remained the economic heart of the Balqa in 1942. Two thousand tons of raisins came from Es-Salt area. The vine-pest "Phylloxera" hit the vine yards of Es-Salt after 1936 and within 10

years, the pest almost wiped all the grape fields.

Es Salt with 35,000 people in 1967 has not changed much like Amman. With its slow rate, it has helped to preserve values, costumes and traditions. Even its physical character remained the same. This is the secret of how to face the challenge of modernization and growth without losing one's own personality and character.

US funds expansion programme

AMMAN (Star) — A groundbreaking ceremony in Um al-Jirani last Thursday, 14 May, celebrated the beginning of a massive school construction programme financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Attending the ceremony were the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Mahmud Al-Hawashneh, the Undersecretary of the MEW, Mr. Khalaf Hawari, and Mr. Lewis P. Reade, Director of USAID in Jordan.

With a USAID grant of \$30 million, the government of Jordan will provide 45 new schools, accommodating approximately 45,000 students from

ages 6-15. The 1200 new classrooms will replace currently inadequate facilities, permit a reduction in inappropriate rented property and allow conversion to single sessions in overcrowded buildings. Each new school will also provide adequate space for libraries, laboratories, vocational workshops, storage areas, meeting halls, and administrative rooms.

The sites for the new buildings were selected jointly by the Ministry of Education and USAID following specific criteria. The new schools, to be finished by late 1988, will be situated in greater Amman, Bah-

hab, Salt, Russeifa, Khirbat Souq, Irbid, Mafraq, Hawara, Eidoun, Dammaj, Kefrinjeh, Souf, Balama, Al-Ain, al-Balqa, Ma'ar, Husayniyah, Tafilah, Wadi Ma'ar, and Aqaba.

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Excavations in Aqaba reveal major finds

By Itislem Dababneh
Special to The Star

SECOND season excavations at the site of Ayla, medieval Aqaba, ended last April with several major findings, including the city wall, houses, city gate and ceramics among many other findings.

The Ayla town and its history date to the 7th century AD to an "Pre-Omayyad" Islamic foundation. Due to the fact the city Ayla can be considered as the first Islamic city to be discovered in the whole area.

The second season of excavations at the Ayla site and the major findings gave us important ideas about the early Muslims used to live, says Dr Donald Whitcomb of the Chicago University and the Aqaba project director.

From the Jordan Department of Antiquities and Chicago University, consisting of 60 workers and under the supervision of archaeologists, have conducted the fieldwork, Dr Whitcomb said.

Dr Whitcomb further explained that the result of the first excavations in 1988 allowed the prediction that the city gate, the city wall and the characteristics of the architecture and ceramic inventory, the basic historical theories, proven accurate, the occupation from the 7th to early 12th century from the Omayyad and the Fatimid periods.

During this occupation and the early Abbasid period, Dr Whitcomb elaborates, "ceramic vessels participation in an extensive trade network connecting Aqaba with Iraq and

the city of Ayla was laid out on a very well planned city, continued in the same form throughout its history." During the Abbasid period, (9th-10th century), this town proved to have a close connection with Iraq, trading ships kept coming from Iraq to Aqaba. This was the capital of Abbasid Aqaba, as a result it was used to be a very important site at that time.

The 80m of the city wall have been excavated, as well as four towers. Two of these towers flank

the city gate. Excavation of the Ayla site was divided into six areas, named as A, B and C.

Area A is where the pavilion building was discovered in 1988, lying next to a sequence of sheet levels. Rooms in this area have been discovered. A more interesting discovery, however, in Area A were the numerous graffiti, scratched inscription in Kufic script, which point to a late Abbasid period. Moreover, the arches found also in this area A, suggest that the earliest form of this building, must have been a sort of pavilion, in the centre of the city. There is little evidence for a palace, but some association with a governor's residence is not unlikely, Dr Whitcomb clarified.

Area B, which was also excavated in 1988, featured the sea wall and brick walls within the city. Area C featured street and houses, a well-constructed building only may be it is a second merchant's residence. Area D, is the city gate. This gate revealed a

complex history of re-building with a total preserved height of a half metre and three metres with a round arch in its earliest form. In the front of the gate, there were blocks with a monumental Kufic inscription, parts of Ayat al-Kural for protection of the city.

The city wall comes under area E, in which two towers were found, and a third severely damaged, due to the construction of cornice.

An area, Dr Whitcomb told the Star, was excavated to reveal the latest walls, a combination of stone and mud-brick structures. The final area F is what they named as the "Large Enclosure", features in Area F, includes a small corner room, a well-constructed platform and a stairway associated with an elaborate drain, a poorly constructed perpendicular wall and three columns.

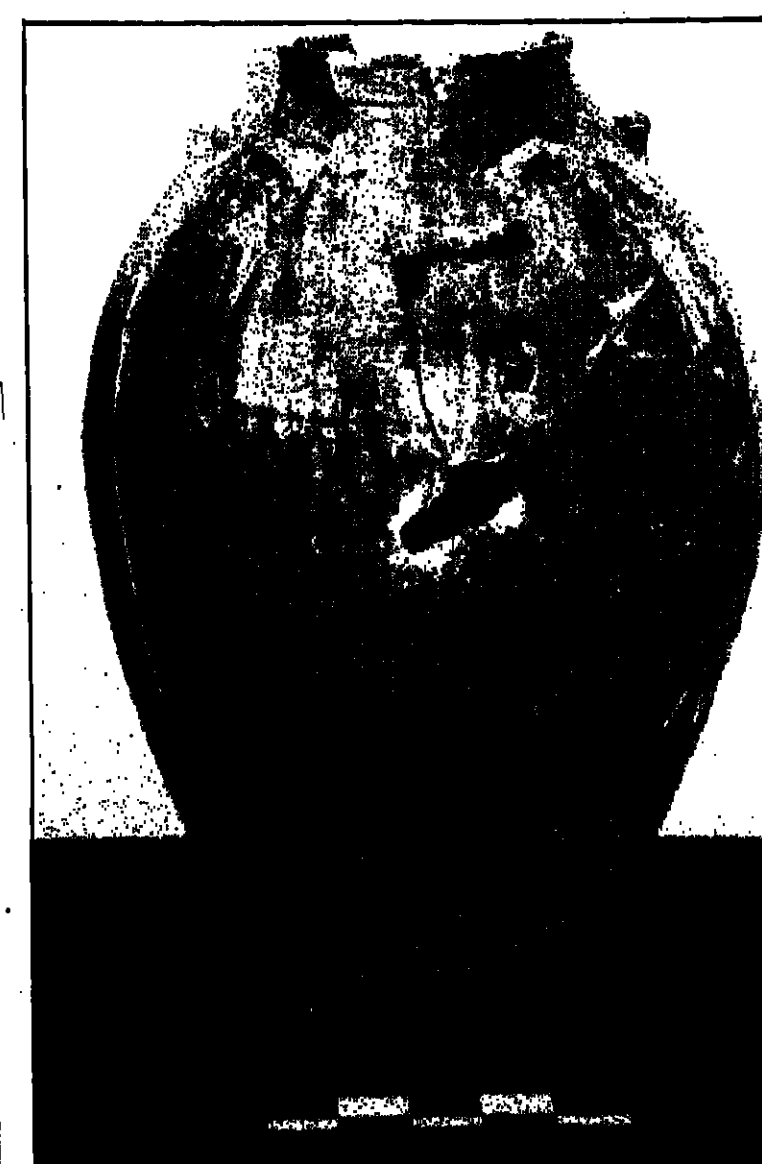
Ceramic vessels, including large storage jars, and several complete Chinese vessels, including wine jar standing over one metre high, dat-

ing back to the 10th and 11th century were found. Furthermore, including numerous pieces of fine Fatimid and Abbasid luster wares were also considered as other findings, which also included a large corpus of hand-made and painted vessels, securely dated to late Abbasid and Fatimid periods, as well as glass, which indeed is a unique corpus of Abbasid period. This is in addition to other findings such as coins, metalwork, marble, large corpus of cooking pots and several lamps and incense burn-

ers with Abbasid decorative designs.

During the Fatimid period (11th century), which started out very prosperously, major earthquakes took place, thus affecting the city walls. People, during the Ayyubid and Mamlouk periods abandoned Ayla city and lived around the castle at Aqaba, one km south of Ayla.

Dr Whitcomb stressed that they had discovered so many sites and things which need to be deeply excavated, hopefully by next spring if financial support is provided.



A chinese jar indicates the existence of trade

Islam's social system: An undivided line

By Ahmad Anani
Special to The Star

TEN YEARS of fierce fighting between the Prophet Muhammad and a slowly growing number of followers — (some seventy in total) — led to the establishment of the Islamic State. The Prophet Muhammad was also reflected in such facts about him as always being the last to approach food and the first to leave; the last to accept a battle and the last to leave. He helped his companions on every occasion.

was admittedly the strongest young man in Mecca but had never started a fight or even an argument. Umar Ibn Al-Khattab always related how only the Prophet Muhammad could get the better of him. The refined habits of the Prophet were also reflected in such facts about him as always being the last to approach food and the first to leave; the last to accept a battle and the last to leave. He helped his companions on every occasion.



Atlantic against fear, poverty, oppression, discrimination, and any kind of mistreatment. No blind man was left without a guide to lead him; who received his salary from the state. The sick, the disabled, the travellers, aliens and students studying outside their province, all of these whether Christians, Jews

or Buddhists received equal and adequate assistance from the welfare state.

The Islamic State, which is still capable of re-emerging, was a kind of a political entity besides which Athenian Democracy was dwarfed to insignificance. It was a state that applied Islamic law and systems. The structure of the economic system of Islam is a divine make. It is a perfectly balanced way for invigorating incentives for work in an atmosphere of ease and liberty except that it contains strict limitations against illegal capital formation by such ways as usury and interest, monopolization and corruption, exploitation and propaganda. Meanwhile wealth accumulated by private ownership is broken down by a celestial method of wealth distribution; money cannot be left idle and state controllers in various fields enjoy unlimited authorities to see to it that everything goes on smoothly and justly.

The social system of Islam destroyed all curtains dividing the society into different societies according to privileges based on in-

human considerations. Islam dealt with the whole society as a collection of individuals initially equal in all respects except for distinction arising from just one sole source which is, piety or Allah-fearing. Through fostering the will of Allah, which is the source of all goodness, men deserve ascendancy. To be more helpful, more self-denying, more ready to sacrifice is to be a better person. This is the only legal method for entrance to the club of the religious elite.

The political system of Islam constituted the most difficult obstacle on which Muslims stumbled. The challenge must have arisen from the natural clash between the despotic trends of tribal sheikhdoms and the very liberal attitude of Islam which stipulated the utmost fostering of the spirit of consultation. In this respect it would be necessary to highlight the Kharjite trend for a purely democratic political system for Muslims. "Imperium" they believe is for Allah's law and the executive authority does a minor job and must do it by the will and to the satisfaction of the majority of people.

El-Tayeb Saleh: The making of a more sensible Othello

By Dr Abdel Qader Yassine
Special to The Star

EL-TAYEB Saleh leaned back in his chair, resigned to the impending interview. "I had no desire to write," he said in answer to the question inevitably thrown at authors. "I don't feel like a writer, I don't know what a writer is supposed to feel like."

The half-joking tone is typical of Saleh, who is considered one of the best Arab novelists writing today. His works, of which the novel 'Season of Migration to the North' is the best known, have been translated into English, French, Russian and even — something over which he had no control — Hebrew. His books are required reading at some universities in the Middle East.

El-Tayeb Saleh, born in the village of Al-Dabba in the Marawi area of Sudan, has always had an innate feeling for language, both Arabic and English. Originally, however, he decided to study agriculture at Khartoum University. "It was a romantic idea, but I quickly tired of dissecting cockroaches and frogs."

He then taught for a while, and went on to study at London University and work with the BBC. Those who have worked with him say he has been well named (Tayeb meaning the "good man"), but he recoils from such a label as though it were the worst of accusations.

Like many authors, Saleh wrote his first story, 'The Doom Tree of Wad Hamid', "for amusement", but "some one liked it and it was published". In 1960 Denys Johnson-Davis, who has since translated most of Saleh's work into English, translated 'Doom Tree' and it appeared in 'Encounter'.

For all his fame, Saleh is not a prolific writer. I have been lucky with both Arab and non-Arab critics," he commented.

In addition to 'Season', his major works include 'Wedding of Zain' (his first full-length story) and 'Bandarshah', of which two volumes of a planned '15 have been published.

"I don't write very much," he explained, because "there must be a motivation. Writing is a kind of redemption for the nagging feeling that your life is wasted. With an interest in language, a love for language, you try to rationalize experience and to redeem yourself a little. And it is nice when you reach somewhere you didn't think you would."

Saleh's works have been analyzed on many levels. On the simplest, 'Season' is that of Eastern culture in confrontation with the West, the 'Wedding of Zain' is the story of the village clown who makes good, and marries the most beautiful girl in the village and 'Bandarshah' treats the conflict between ruler and ruled.

There is an underlying theme that is threaded through novels and short stories alike. "From the beginning I was trying to create a mythology," he said. "I thought the people in that village in North Sudan were no less deserving of an epic than the people Homer wrote about. Homer's people were mere peasants, those in King Lear barbarians. With a derogatory look he added, "I was as arrogant — or ambitious, that's a better word — as that. This mythological intention is clearer in my later works. Ultimately, we have to present something of our own."

Certainly the part of Sudan that Saleh comes from provides the necessary tools to shape an epic



El-Tayeb Saleh: A challenge for the West

world. The Marawi area boasts a civilization dating back to the time of the Pharaohs in Egypt. The Meruvian civilization gave way to a Christian Kingdom which lasted for centuries before Islam and Sudan's modern history. "The place itself is the centre — the navel — of things. This part of Sudan is the Arab Muslim part with all its heritage, bordering on the Sudan of Arab bedouins. To be born there, well, it gets to you."

"The kind of life I remember from my childhood is that of a harmonious society. You felt you absolutely belonged. We were separated by a great desert from the west, and this total isolation preserved many things. Sudan is like an oasis in the desert; we got feelings of Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks. We had intrusions from the North. We were ruled by the English and by the time they got to us they petered out, so to speak."

Although he lived abroad for many years, Saleh feels that he is in a constant dialogue with Sudan. "The nostalgia is an attempt to build a bridge with a place although you are not in it. When you create these characters you feel you are there, that you have conquered the distance."

The urge to "present something of our own", whether Sudanese or Arab, was made more apparent as he reflected: "We are like a bubble of air trapped in a shell of our own making, within a rock of West European culture. We need an explosion to blow away both shell and rock."

Through the creation of his mythological world, Saleh feels he is contributing "in my small way" as he put it with a wry smile — to the erosion of the multi-faceted rock. But the concept of myth contributing to social development is difficult to grasp in the Arab world where politics is the very breath of life.

"Arab critics complain that my work is not political. This is rubbish. I am not political in the sense of being a Nasserite, Baathist and so on. But I am political in that I care how people are coping. And I believe in this loosely-knit idea that the Arabs have a common destiny... if only because the people themselves, the Arabs, believe that for whatever reason they are one nation. When I wrote 'Wedding of Zain', the school of writing in the Arab world was that of social realism, and everyone wanted to write about workers and the class struggle. But 'Wedding of Zain' was a fable and everything else has been a variation of that fable."

'Bandarshah', which is regarded as a fantasy, is political and even prophetic. 'Bandarshah' means 'city-ruler'. Saleh explained, "In my view these are two

major problems we are trying to solve: the problem of being governed and of that form that government should take after the revolution. Although I published the first book four years ago, it is as though I were writing about Iran now."

There are at least two levels interwoven in 'Bandarshah': "One is the mythological layer, and on top of that is what one pretends is a realistic rendering of a reasonably realistic community. But the past keeps intruding and repeating itself."

The political argument in the Arab world "is so confused because people think it is new and you waste time arguing over it. When you dig further you find that people are behaving in a predestined way, running on the spot, unable to breakout of the shell."

The myth does have a message and Saleh is trying to get it across to his own people, not to the West. "I write for my own people; they want to read it, fine. If one is read throughout the Arab world, this is an international audience for me; we are a world unto ourselves. Others will read you for more than that; yes, why shouldn't one say it, there is a message. A writer is a bit of a propagandist, don't you think?"

In spite of his assertion that he writes for his own people, 'Season' does contain a message for the west. One of the reasons why it was written, he said, was a rebuttal of Shakespeare's 'Othello'. Was this also a form of arrogance or ambition? Not in the Arab literary tradition.

"One person will write a poem, and another will retell it by writing along the same lines, but reversing the meaning — this is called 'muaradah'. I did the same with 'Othello'. From the beginning I thought 'Othello' did not make sense. He was probably an Arab — they called him a Moor — someone very like the Sudanese. He came to Venice — the greatest European centre at that time — and immediately he was completely accepted. A man whose skin was dark was accepted by the establishment of Venice, became a general and married. Can you imagine an Arab becoming commander of the British Army? Then along comes Iago and tells him all those things; he believes him and kills Desdemona. This only makes sense if you hold the view that 'Othello' never really accepted the Venetians nor they him. Only then is his rage understood — it is a nationalistic rage, a clash of cultures. Mustafa Said the protagonist in 'Season' is how I feel Othello should have been, and I use the same terminology and the handkerchief in my murder scene."

"The relationship of the Arabs with the West is one of love-hate. It must explode and kill. If you ignore this interpretation, then 'Othello' becomes silly. Most productions of 'Othello' do not get this point, with the exception of the one based on F.R. Leavis's interpretation. In which 'Othello' played Othello and put him in his place as the hero."

The message for the west, by now expounded by others in a number of scholarly works on East-West relations over the centuries, is this: "The reasons Othello gave the Duke as to why Desdemona loved him are the same phony reasons for Arab-West relations. In this novel I was challenging these illusions. I was saying: We are people like you and if you want relations with us, you have to see us as we are."



Reem Yasin's
Cinema Corner

Legal Eagles

ONE OF the most watchable latest commercial productions is 'Legal Eagles', shown in town last week. Made in 1988 and directed by Ivan Reitman, the film has many of the ingredients that make a box-office success like Reitman's previous film, 'Ghostbusters' that proved to be quite a hit.

With Robert Redford and Debra Winger in the leading roles as the two lawyers (or legal eagles) the film's main attraction is the touch-and-go relationship between the two protagonists. The main story of the film, though, is basically a thriller.

Tom Logan (Robert Redford) is an assistant district attorney who is suspiciously dismissed from his job whilst investigating an art fraud case, involving paintings that were supposed to have been destroyed by a fire a long time ago. Tom joins forces with the lawyer of the dead painter's daughter to try and solve the mystery. The daughter is Daisy Hannah (the mermaid of the hit film 'Splash') and the lawyer, Laura Kelly, is no other than Debra Winger herself.

As the case becomes more complicated than they had originally imagined, to the extent of endangering their own lives, the relationship between Tom and Laura begins to develop beyond the purely professional, making the film into quite an attractive romantic comedy thriller.

The thriller elements of the plot are handled with remarkable assurance by the director, although it does have more polish and dazzle than intellectual credibility. The action in the film is quite brisk but the feeling of the principal characters drifting progressively out of their depth is not always quite convincing.

However, Redford and Winger remain to be quite a charming off beat couple of sparring partners sometimes even reminiscent of Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn as the two conflicting lawyers (as well as husband and wife in 'Adam's Rib') — but never actually measuring up to them. Nevertheless, it must be said that Robert Redford does give a good performance as an 'actor' in contrast to his previous two films 'Out of Africa' and 'The Natural' where he played as a pretty face leaving the acting to the other players.

With all the action and glamour of 'Legal Eagles', its dazzling photography and sophisticated production, the film's main charm is the crackling energy of its two protagonists, Winger and Redford, the two bickering legal eagles.

Recent film releases

The Allnighter (PG-13) Susananna Hoffa — Trite comedy about plight of college girls (Boring)

Blind Date (PG-13) Bruce Willis, Kim Basinger — Lively comedy about girl who creates pandemonium after one drink (Good)

Creepshow 2 (R) George Kennedy — A trilogy of Stephen King horror stories (Fair)

Extreme Prejudice (R) Nick Nolte — Texas ranger and drug kingpin shoot it out on Tex-Mex border, ridiculous actioner (Fair)

Gardens of Stone (R) James Caan — Warm and sober drama of home-front soldiers during Vietnam Era (good)

Lethal Weapon (R) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover — Cop buddy actioner is compromised by overwhelming violence (Fair)

Malone (R) Burt Reynolds — Disillusioned Ex-CIA man takes on neo-fascists, overrated violence (Fair)

My Demon Lover (PG-13) Scott Valentine — Nice young man becomes a beast when sexually aroused, nothing to howl about (Fair)

Platoon (R) Tom Berenger — Powerful, vivid account of Viet-

political prisoner's 'voyage of misery'

cast 'All Hope', by Armando Valladares, translated by Andrew Knopf, New York,

By Marianne Neaur
Special to The Star

BOOK is shattering beyond words. It recounts in horrendous detail the twenty-two years which Armando Valladares spent in prison in Cuba. The fact that he is still alive is an incredible testament to his indomitable will.

'All Hope' is a translation of Spanish. It is a powerful, moving story in any language. The author wrote this book after being released from prison in 1983. His words, however, were books written from his prison cell.

Valladares devised ingenious ways to smuggle his letters out of prison even in the most morbid solitary confinement, enduring the most degrading and filthy living conditions. It was his poetry which got his case to the attention of Amnesty International, leading to a worldwide clamour for humane treatment of Cuban political prisoners. It brought international pressure on the Cuban government.

His crime and trial were both farcical but the firing squads at La

sure that he was eventually rehabilitated (having lost the use of his legs from torture) and was later released to meet his wife for the first time in fourteen years.

As a young man employed by

Cabana Prison were deadly real. Even in the absence of evidence against him, Valladares was convicted of "public destruction and sabotage." Following his conviction he was transferred to an island prison and began his ceaseless days of violence, forced labour, solitary confinement, putrid food and hunger strikes. After an unsuccessful escape attempt, he received the ultimate sentence of life imprisonment.

How did he endure? How could he survive? His faith in God and the fraternal bond formed with the prisoners grew steadily as the

most trite. One must read the work in its totality in order to fully comprehend some measure of the suffering of this man. The reading audience will not doubt be numbed by this memoir.

The significance of this book is in its indictment of institutionalized violence — the violence of a government against the people it claims to represent and serve. It is undoubtedly the most bitter pill to realize that one's enemy is within, and not an outside aggressor. What could be more devastating than to be devoured by one's own social order?

This book is therapeutic in value. In addition to the obvious "count your blessings" remedy, there is the bonus of reality testing for communist theory as applied in Cuba. Heretofore sympathy for the Castro regime can no longer be reconciled with basic human morality. As Valladares comments on the opening page of his book: "Man is nature's most wonderful creature. Torturing him, crushing him, murdering him for his beliefs and ideas is more than a violation of human rights — it is a crime against all humanity."

"Against All Hope" is available at the American Centre Library on the Third Circle.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

the Postal Union in the early days of the Castro regime, Valladares had not actively denounced the movement of the government towards communism. He simply refused active support of the movement by not permitting a sign to be placed on his desk which read, "If Fidel is a communist, then he has the right idea." Clinging to youthful ideals of liberty, then, plunged him into a dark voyage of misery for more than two decades at the hands of his countrymen.

His crime and trial were both farcical but the firing squads at La

years passed. With each new method of torture, the spirit of resistance in these men became stronger. Prison officials were stymied in their attempts to "rehabilitate politically" these prisoners of conscience. Their ideals and values could not be swayed to embrace the political beliefs of the communist regime.

In addition to psychological and physical torture, there was medical experimentation, shocking and base in its methodology. To present further details of the author's experience here seems al-

Evenings of Wilde wit

By Venita Maudsley
Special to The Star



John 'The Importance of Being Earnest' Photo by Venita Maudsley

THE AMMAN Players staged a delightful rendering of Oscar Wilde's classic 'The Importance of Being Earnest', at the Royal Cultural Centre last week, under the patronage of Her Highness Sharifa Zein Nasser.

The play was directed by Andy Murphy and, for a first venture as a director, Andy deserves much credit and congratulations. In previous productions he has always been on stage.

The play is set in Victorian Eng-

land, about a hundred years ago, and portrays the social attitudes, the pomposity, shallowness and hypocrisy of the upper classes, in a very witty and amusing way.

Bridget Clare was a splendid Lady Bracknell who portrayed so well the matriarchal strength of the Victorian lady who dominated the household. Her daughter, the Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax, whose main aim in life was to marry someone called Earnest, was played with tremendous vitality and dry wit by Rachel Garrard. Julia McKelvey gave a delightful performance as the sweet and innocent Cecily Cardew, who was, in fact, much more knowledgeable about life than her governess, Miss Prism, gave her credit for. Erica Wilson played Miss Prism with the primness and properness expected of an English governess.

Paul Spice was as natural as the rather immoral Victorian gentleman Algernon Moncrieff and Tony Parsons was a dashing and energetic John Worthing J.P.

David Thompson, who is well known to Amman audiences, was splendidly unkempt as the rev. Canon Chasuble D.D. and furthered his reputation as a perfectionist by giving attention to the minutest details of make-up and demeanour.

Ivor McElveen portrayed Lane, the Manservant, with all the staidness and tolerance of a Jeeves; Merriman, the Butler, played by Tony Harpur, needed few words to amuse the audience with his expressive facial expressions.

The stage reflected the Victorian era in furniture and decor. The colourful costumes were mainly made by members of the cast, under the supervision of Paul and Sue Spice, although some items, such as Algernon's smoking jacket, were authentic.

The four performances in Amman and the one expanding the night-life of Acaba were generally deemed entertaining. All proceeds of the play will be donated to the Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped.

Antonio Ferrari, from Courriers della Sera, whom we now consider an Ammanite. Here one day, in Cairo the next, then to Milan. But before leaving, Italian Embassy Counsellor Guido Carbone and wife Katarina gave Antonio a cosy dinner party attended by a few of their own and Antonio's friends. Consul Mario Vinci and wife Claude were there, and so were Rana Sabbagh and Laila Deeb, all of whom wished Antonio good speed and a fast return to Amman.

American Embassy's David and Gretchen Welch have a dinner in honour of visiting friend Robin Raphael, from the London Embassy. The party was attended by American Ambassador Paul Boeker and wife Margaret, Australian Ambassador Terry Goggin, Greek Embassy Counsellor Michael Koukakis and wife Evelyn, Mr and Mrs Micael Massana, Rick Davis, British Embassy's Sarah Rowland Jones, USAID's Bill and Susan Riley and many other friends of the Welchs.

The organizing committee of the Royal Theatre Company met at Vanessa Batrouni's place last Tuesday afternoon, over a cup of tea, in what turned out to be a successful attempt to finalize the arrangement for their next activity which is going to be 'The

Threepenny Opera' by Bertolt Brecht. This opera will be produced by the R.T.C. in co-operation with the Goethe Institute and presented at the Studio Theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre, starting Thursday 28 May and through Sunday 31 May at 8:30 in the evenings.

The play, which is translated into English by Hugh MacDermid, is directed by Vanessa. Present were Sandy Rose, Meg Abu Hamdan, Nawal Abdullah, Ann Hamdan, Ginny Tougan, Lexi Haddadin and Ann Kaoukja, while two equally important people were absent on business namely Collin Garland who is in Vienna and Youssef Basal in Manila. The 'Three-penny Opera' is the third activity by the Royal Theatre Company this year, and will no doubt turn out to be a success like their previous works, so don't miss it, and your ticket will be available at the Royal Cultural Centre from today.

Visiting Amman at the moment is the well-known British actor and director Peter Ustinov. Here as a guest of royalty he is involved in the production of a television documentary on Jordan's royal family.

Whims

By

Haya Hussain

Descent

DOWNHILL ALL the way. It boggles the mind. Agitates it. Imagine the constant pressure of going down, down, down and yet further down into a wearisome descent of barren land dotted occasionally with midget trees but mostly strewn with landmines.

It is not the heat. For that could be pleasant even in summer when the ground is cooked by midday and ebullient heat rises visibly in its own transparent clouds.

No, it is not the heat. Only the descent is an aggravation to the mind. Neither is it in the tilt, for a sharp tilt may bring an abrupt end. This dive is continuous, unbroken and slow. Continuity invites hope and one keeps rolling.

The poignancy of decline is best felt by those who have left heights behind; the heights of any land, be it hot or cold; by those who have once climbed up, not necessarily arriving at virgin peaks, but covering with their eyes' scope, an immense expanse of colours, shapes, sizes and movements.

But a depression like this does not offer anything in full view. Around, only the burden of the knowledge that these are bits and pieces of life; that rocks are inanimate; that bushes hide horrid insects; that farmers work their land to the best of their ability. Often, quite often, ripe fruit drop from the trees and are devoured by the insects.

Nobody goes up. The ascent is too long and the villagers have neither the time nor the energy. Their children, though, roam the land barefoot over thistles and scorpions, but are wary of the landmines.

The landmines. We stick to the roads. Narrow our ways. Limit our horizons as we descend. Surprisingly, not a dog or a cat ventures into the area marked 'landmines'. It is naturally best to do what the animals do, for it is they who have inherited the most refined qualities of environmental behaviour.

The road takes a plunge. Now a gulf of distance separates us. Progress? Into a bottomless sink.

The sudden submergence makes one see yellow. But wait until your eyes get accustomed to the colour of the air. Then you will see dots flickering in time you will learn to stop seeing them.

The eye, adjusted to rotation and digression, will soon learn to see straight, or to gravitate, when and if necessary.

Up above, the achromatic skies are outstretched and mountains shrink out of sight.

Only the descent, stripped of all exaltation, aggravates the mind. It is an insult, an allegorical insult to a hungry intellect.

Arab League Ambassador to UN reflects on PNC meeting

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star UN Correspondent

NEW YORK: Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, meeting with United Nations journalists in this city, gave the Arab League's interpretation of the results of last month's Palestinian National Council's conference in Algiers. Expressing a bit of dismay, the Ambassador noted that critics "cannot have it both ways. Some have said if the PLO is divided, it cannot represent the Palestinian people. Yet, these same people — including many in the press — say if the PLO is united, it is too radical." Mr. Maksoud believed the PLO is now united and that this will facilitate the convening of a UN-sponsored international peace conference.

He noted, "We (the Arab League) welcome the unity that has been articulated in the PLO. We think the conciliation of the major factors within the PLO shows clearly that the PLO represents the Palestinian people and provides the framework of its nation-hood. The international community should welcome these developments because they make clear that the PLO can now undertake any commitment and can not be undermined, subverted or corroded."

Maksoud believes that the unity achieved in Algiers will facilitate, rather than complicate (as some have charged) the way for convening a "clear structuring of a UN-sponsored international conference."

The Ambassador believes that the PLO's reconciliation of its various factions "makes it categorically clear" that it wants a successful peace conference, and believes much will depend on the attitude of the United States, which he accuses of having given Israel "a high level of permissiveness" which has "emboldened Israel to 'again' defy the planning of an international conference." To avert this, Maksoud calls on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar



Ambassador Clovis Maksoud

"to get a clear handle on the planning of the conference. The secretary general can learn from the unity shown by the PLO in Algiers."

Speaking of what he terms "the perceived contradictions (the fighting that has occurred in the past) within the PLO," Maksoud notes the "PLO has now put its house in order" so that it may "achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East." Further, "The PLO is now committing its constituency to the peace option through the mechanism of a UN sponsored international conference."

(To help do this, Maksoud announced that for the first time ever, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab League have signed an agreement of co-operation whereby the UN agency will provide assistance, initially costing \$2 million, to help with "reconstruction and reforming of the administration and technical programme, as well as setting up a modernized documentation and information system." He noted this is the first signed agreement between the two organizations and that it therefore "indicated a concrete expression of agreement between them. The Arab League and UNDP will play major roles in convening any peace conference.")

As a final note, Ambassador Maksoud avows that the PLO has not abrogated its 1986 agreements with Jordan, but rather has "reformulated its relations with various Arab states. It is respectful of the various national roles of all Arab states in bringing about a solution to the Middle East crisis."

Maksoud feels that the PLO's unity within its leadership "restores its ability for mobility in the international community without having the temptation to divide or circumvent it." He adds, "an undivided PLO can now maintain a militant option as well as salvaging the peace option" adding, "with unity the PLO can regularize its relationship with other countries, especially ones in the Arab World which are called 'confrontation states' (which he later defined as Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt). Such 'regularization', he notes, 'is a step toward an Arab summit as it facilitates cohesiveness in the Arab world.'"

The Ambassador points to an Arab summit as being the prerequisite to an international peace conference, but admits that the latter will be difficult because of the United States' support to Israel in its refusal to negotiate.

"When the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee said he wants the right to a Palestinian state and to have Jerusalem as its capital, Mr. Shamir responded, 'This is an attempt to rob Israel of Jerusalem', as if Israel owns Jerusalem and has rightfully annexed it. But Jerusalem is the venue, capital and spiritual anchor of all major religions and it is as much Palestinian as anything else and the international community has ratified the status of Jerusalem and has declared its annexation by Israel to be null and void legally."

Mr. Maksoud says that there are two pillars on which an international peace conference can be built: the withdrawal of Israel from the Occupied Territories and Palestinian right to self-determination.

As a final note, Ambassador Maksoud avows that the PLO has not abrogated its 1986 agreements with Jordan, but rather has "reformulated its relations with various Arab states. It is respectful of the various national roles of all Arab states in bringing about a solution to the Middle East crisis."



Detained students of the Islamic University in Gaza

Attack on Islamic University

Israeli radio disclosed that a large number of Israeli soldiers and border guards Sunday attacked the Islamic University in Gaza to ban a meeting of students and visitors. The soldiers were engaged in violent fracas with the students and used "tear gas" and tear gas bombs to disperse the angry crowds inside the university's compound. A total of 23 students and nine soldiers were reportedly wounded and more than 300 students were detained and flung into Ansar II prison.

Rabin: Bombing of Liberty far different from USS Stark case

TEL AVIV, (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday there was "no similarity whatsoever" between Israel's bombing of a US naval ship 20 years ago and Iraq's attack on the USS Stark because Israel tried to warn the Americans.

But Rabin acknowledged that through "a series of mistakes," the warning to move US ships was sent to the Far East and reached units in the Mediterranean only after the bombing of the USS Liberty in which 34 Americans were killed.

The United States officially accepted Israel's explanation but the attack on the US navy reconnaissance ship was a mistake. But questions about the bombing still linger.

Some US navy officials contend Israel launched the attack to destroy US capability to eavesdrop on its war communications. The attack came on 8 June 1987, during the six-day war. Rabin was chief of general staff at the time.

"When the war broke out, we made it clear to the Soviet Union's Embassy and to the Embassy of the United States that we were at war and that it was going to be a very intensive war," Rabin said during a seminar on the 1967 war.

"We asked both countries (the Soviet Union and the United States) to move their intelligence ships further from our shores," he said.

The Soviets did so, he said, but "we found out later that the request to the United States was sent by mistake to the Far East headquarters of the US naval forces. It reached the fleet only after the Liberty attack." Rabin did not say how the mistake occurred.

He said the pilot who led the attack on the Liberty had not identified the ship.

Israeli officials claimed the Liberty bore no markings, but photographs showed the ship bore markings on her side and Liberty crew members said a large US flag was flying.

Referring to the Iraqi bombing of the USS Stark, Rabin said "There is a similarity in the mere fact that the two ships were attacked were American ships, beyond that, there is no similarity whatsoever."

Emigrant Jews arrive

Israeli radio reported that 26 Soviet Jews emigrants arrived at Lod airport from Vienna last Sunday, and were referred to a group of 38 emigrants from Iran who had arrived in the airport and were taken to Ashdod city.

Israelis deport Palestinian youth

Southern Region Commander General Yitzhak Mordechai Monday ordered the deportation of 32-year-old Ahmad al-Hamdan from Khan Yunis refugee camp, accusing him of leading the Shababiah youth movement in the Gaza Strip after the death of Mohammed Dahlan few months ago. Mr. Hamdan was engaged two weeks ago was preparing to get married.

Israelis seal Arab houses

Israeli authorities have sealed three houses in the Arab town of Qalqilyah belonging to members of a resistance cell responsible for throwing firebombs at Israeli targets this month.

Arab schools closed down

Israeli authorities have reportedly closed down three schools in Rafah town near Gaza city for a non-specified reason and detained 21 male and female students for interrogation. The schools were closed down shortly before final exams were held.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

JCO and WFP support animal production efforts

By Ibtisam Dababneh
Special to The Star

AMMAN — Jordan's local meat production has been stagnant in recent years and the country has become increasingly dependent upon imports to meet the demand for red meat which represents almost three quarters of all meat consumed here.

Rangelands, which provide the major source of feed for sheep and goats are unfortunately subject to rainfall variability, gradual desert encroachment and the problem of urban encroachment. According to an official at the Jordan Co-operative Organization

(JCO) livestock production is now much below the country's potential and an increase will depend mainly on the possibility of developing existing grazing areas and that the JCO, the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Food Programme (WFP) are now co-operating on a programme to develop rangelands and meat production up to the year 1990.

The WFP is providing amounting to \$3.6 million support in the form of foodstuffs including coffee, tea, sugar, milk powder and oil.

The WFP has assisted the JCO since the year 1980 when it supported a three-year pilot project followed by an expansion, aimed at finding effective means to improve rangeland productivity promote forage production and encourage better lamb fattening.

In the 1986-87 season the JCO has planted 800 dunums in Madaba, Karak and Ma'len areas with palatable shrubs.

This year, 1987 will witness both horizontal and vertical rangeland improvements. Two projects are now underway in the Jordan Valley, one at Rama and the other at Arida, which will involve planting of 2000 dunums. 15,000 dunum area at Madaba district known as 'Salla' will be planted.

According to the current five year plan for developing rangelands and meat production, the Ministry of Agriculture will plant 11,000 hectares while 3000 hectares are to be planted by the JCO, of which 800 hectares have already been planted. In addition some 40 water wells are to be dug to serve the needs of planting and sheep fattening. Three wells are currently under development.

A large number of small farmers, members of co-operatives and forestry workers are benefiting from the WFP support. The JCO has also assisted local farmers by providing them with loans at a low interest rates. These loans which range between JD 800 and JD 1200 are granted for sheep fattening activities and have helped to increase both farmers' incomes and local meat production.

According to the official these loans will be repaid to the JCO within a period of 4-6 months. Total loans granted to the farmers in the last four months amounted JD 70,000, compared with JD 60,000 in 1986.

The official added that the JCO's income from selling of wheat amounted to JD 400,000 and the money will be used to support small farmers' projects in goat and sheep raising.

وزارة الاشغال العامة
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

INVITATION TO TENDER Health Centres in Ajloun & Jerash Central Tender No. (46/87)

- The Ministry of Health in Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of construction of health centres. Tendering is hereby open to all pre-qualified tenderers, the list of whom has been approved by the tender.
- The Government Tenders Directorate now invites sealed tenders from prequalified tenderers for the construction of the fourth group of buildings of health centres in Ajloun and Jerash Districts, comprising 2020 sq.m. as follows:-
Ajloun - 880 sq.m.
Al Kiteh - 380 sq.m.
Burma - 380 sq.m.
Shajara - 380 sq.m.
- Interested prequalified tenderers may obtain copies of tender documents from the Govt. Tenders Directorate - Amman against a non-refundable fee of (JD 100) for each set.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a tender guarantee from an approved bank operating in Jordan in the value of (JD 15,000), valid for (120) days.
- Last day for purchase of tender sets is June 30, 1987.
- Tenders shall be deposited at the Govt. Tenders Directorate not later than 12:30 on Sat. 4th July, 1987.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee.
Director, Govt. Tenders Directorate

• SUPPLY OF garbage plastic bags for Mahle Municipality. Tender documents are available at the municipality. Closing date: 21 May 1987.

• SUPPLY AND installation of air conditioners for the Ministry of Health. Tender documents are available at the ministry for JD 5. Closing date: 24 May 1987.

• TENDER NO 23/87. Supply of mixed gravel for Um Al Rama Al Sharqi road. Tender documents are available at Amman Tenders Committee for JD 10. Closing date: 20 May 1987.

• TENDER NO 24/87. Improvement of Al Samik - Al Khadra - Al Al road. Tender documents are available at Amman Tenders Committee for JD 10. Closing date: 20 May 1987.

• TENDER NO 15/87. Maintenance for Princess Beasmah hospital - Irbid. Tender documents are available at the Ministry of Health for JD 10. Closing date: 27 May 1987.

• TENDER NO 48/87. Construction of an additional building at Princess Beasmah hospital - Irbid. Tender documents are available at the Ministry of Health for JD 25. Closing date: 28 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 38/87. Supply of a dumper truck and a truck for Mutah university. Tender documents are available at the university or its liaison office in Amman for JD 20. Closing date: 31 May 1987.

• TENDER NO 40/87. Supply of tubes and tyres for Mutah university. Tender documents are available at the university or its liaison office in Amman for JD 5. Closing date: 31 May 1987.

• TENDERS NO 25-26/87. Supply of asphalt mixture for Ramtha and Ajloun roads. Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Directorate for JD 25 each. Closing date: 23 May 1987.

• SUPPLY OF paper for the Jordanian Armed Forces. Tender documents are available at the Armed Forces Tenders Committee for JD 50. Closing date: 16 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 180/87. Supply of 90 facsimile machines for the Public Supplies Directorate. Tender documents are available at the directorate for JD 40. Closing date: 15 June 1987.

• SUPPLY OF road traffic signs for Madaba municipality. Tender documents are available at the municipality for JD 10. Closing date: 26 May 1987.

• SUPPLY OF stationery for the Armed Forces - Military consumer corporation. Tender documents are available at the Tenders committee for JD 30. Closing date: 21 June 1987.

• SUPPLY OF foodstuffs for the Dead Sea and Zai rest-houses. Tender documents are available at the Tourist Investment Management offices in the 5th circle. Closing date: 24 May 1987.

• TENDER NO 37/87. Supply of passenger buses for mutah university. Tender documents are available at the university or its liaison offices in Amman for JD 20. Closing date: 31 May 1987.

• TENDER NO. 52/87. Construction of a school building in Irbid. Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Directorate for JD 50. Closing date: 3 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 43/87. Construction of the Central Blood Bank new building at Al Bashir Hospital. Tender documents are available at the Government Tenders Directorate for JD 60. Closing date: 10 June 1987.

• TENDER NO 46/87. Supply of gas cylinders sheeted iron for the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Tender documents are available at the company for JD. 15. Closing date: 21 June 1987.

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Economic Adhocracy

By Jawad Anani



Reflation is no answer

IT HAS been proposed by an economic commentator in a leading Arabic Daily that Jordan should engage in a reflationary policy for the economy. He (or she) has been propagating the idea as a means to boost economic activity in the seemingly passive economy. To this idea of reflation, the following discussion shall be dedicated.

To say that the present economic situation in Jordan carries the seeds of inflation in the future is something, and to propose the artificial creation of the inflation is something completely different. The referred to above commentator started the discussion by predicting the rise of inflationary tides in the economy. Two days later, he transformed his prediction into a prescription to cure the economy. This is what may be termed as carrying the argument beyond limits.

I may subscribe to the idea that the Kingdom may pass through an inflationary cycle reminiscent of the one which began in 1973. After the economic fall of 1980-71, the economy began to rise and inflation was set in motion. The suppressed liquidity and other expenditure schemes let created a demand whose size was too big for the supply response of the early 70's.

There are indications now that part of the current recession is self-imposed. There is a potential capacity that is rendered inactive by deliberate well-see decisions on the part of investors and consumers. The evidence to this is demonstrated by the size of idle liquidity, the number of investment opportunities that have been frozen and the excess capacity which was created by over-investment in the boom decade (1974-1983).

Yet, to say that I must turn that prediction into a deliberate policy in order to stir up economic activity is in itself a proposal fraught with dangers.

The first one is that it may lead to a stagflation, a syndrome which combines the symptoms of inflation and recession. The notion (called by economists as the Phillips curve), that to get rid of unemployment, one should invite the higher social cost of inflation is not necessarily applicable to Jordan.

The second danger is that, despite the presence of zero inflation, the cost structure in Jordan is still high. Our export potential is severely curtailed by our high costs. What is needed is a deliberate effort to cut on the cost of production for the realization of tempting profits. Thus deflating costs is what is needed. Interest rates, wages and rents have only recently begun to succumb to the recessionary pressures. We cannot allow this recession-motivated adjustment to be eroded by artificial inflation.

Jordan needs better and more scientific economic management. To replace that by reflation is like creating a lab-controlled Frankenstein monster.

IN BRIEF

From cassava to sugar

VIENNA — With the co-operation of the Institute for Food Technology of the University of Agriculture, Vogelbusch GmbH have developed a process for the manufacture of sugar syrups direct from cassava — without the need for a costly intermediate starch stage.

Cassava, manioc, or tapioca, ranks sixth among the world's most important food plants, world production is put at over 130 million tonnes/year. The main source of nourishment for more than 500 million people, it is grown in some 80 countries in a zone extending from 30° north to 30° south of the Equator. Only a small volume of starch extracted from the root is currently processed by enzymatic hydrolysis to glucose syrups. In the future the countries concerned will turn increasingly to cassava to cover their need for low-molecular carbohydrates.

Kaunda promotes dams

LONDON — A great era of dam-building is being urged in Zambia by President Kenneth Kaunda, but with depressed world prices for the country's main export, copper, Zambia is short of funds to build and maintain them, writes Sam Lutunda.

Six years of devastatingly low and sporadic rainfall have caused politicians, led by President Kaunda, to call for the damming of most major Zambian rivers.

The Minister of Agriculture and Water Development, General Kingsley Chinkanda, is now seeking funds to construct 12 new dams. Eight of a projected 20 have already been built — but they are either poorly maintained due to lack of funds, or out of action due to lack of manpower.

The dams are intended especially for the South, where 70 per cent of the country's staple food, maize, is grown. They would help irrigate the land during Zambia's April-November dry season. (PANOS features)

Venezuela: A change of flavour after 'Black Friday'

Venezuela announced four years ago it could no longer service its \$30 billion foreign debt. The country — often held up as a model democracy in Latin America — set itself on a dramatic new economic course. It seems to be working.

By Marlon B. Bywater
Special to The Star

CARACAS, Venezuela — Dining out in Caracas has a new flavour these days. Along with the bread comes an 'arepa', a traditional Venezuelan crisp roll.

But this touch of local colour is not the brainchild of tourist-oriented restaurateurs. By offering arepas, they are merely complying with a government decree.

The roll is made from locally grown maize while bread requires imported wheat — so the arepa is a symbol of Venezuela's push to become less dependent on oil.

The country is trying to become more self-sufficient in agriculture, to diversify industry, promote tourism and reduce imports. The switch dates back to a day known locally — and in international banking circles — as a "Black Friday."

That was the day in February, 1983, when Venezuela declared it could no longer service its \$30 billion debt or continue as one of Latin America's most attractive markets for the industrialized world's consumer goods.

The recipe is one familiar to many countries hit by mounting debt followed by a major swing in oil prices.

For Venezuela it has meant devaluation, multi-tier exchange rates, a clampdown on imports, stiff protection for domestic industry, better incentives for exporters, a rediscovery of agriculture, and an opening-up to foreign investment after more than a decade of nationalization.

Some results have been spectacular. Textile exports, for example, have tripled in the past four years; crop acreage has increased 37 per cent, and now 27 per cent of foodstuffs are imported compared with 75 per cent in 1983.

Four years ago Venezuela imported tuna. Today it is not only self-sufficient but exports 80 per cent of production and has leaped from world number seven to number two producer.

Rum sales are up by half as Venezuelans — once the world's largest per capita consumers of premium whiskey — turn to local liquors rather than pay \$100 a bottle for top-of-the-range whiskeys.

Reliance on oil for export earnings has dropped from 90 per cent-plus to 83 per cent, and more money is coming in from tourists visiting Venezuela's Caribbean island of Margarita.

The picture is not all rosy.

though.

Overall growth has been sluggish following the oil price crash of 1986. Unemployment remains over 10 per cent, and while increased agricultural production saves on foreign exchange it often means higher costs.

The country's 17 million population, unaccustomed to not being in a seller's market, are adjusting slowly to the service orientation required in exporting and tourism.

The economy also remains largely dependent on an overly rigid public sector, while private sector investment has been slow in coming.

Most Venezuelans still prefer to keep their money out of sight in offshore bank accounts and the heyday of foreign investment is past, particularly because of tough competition from Asia.

Moreover, Venezuela has been persona non grata with international banks since "Black Friday."

Venezuela starts with some strong natural advantages, however.

How many other countries, asks economist Juan Malagutti, can offer "a vast territory with fabulous and varied natural resources, a democratic regime, political stability, labour harmony, social mobility, an excellent climate and geographical position, a tradition of peace and hospitality and a young, creative population receptive to new ideas?"

Of Venezuela's natural advantages, oil remains the linchpin. Reassessment of proven reserves in 1988 pushed Venezuela to number one place in the Western Hemisphere and fourth in the world behind Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Soviet Union.

In addition, Venezuela has become the world's leading producer of refined products, helping to cushion it to some extent from the worst of the crude price plunge.

And the underlying wealth does not stop at oil.

Venezuela last November inaugurated the giant Guri hydropower project, which guarantees virtually unlimited cheap energy for new industries, including aluminium production, and a burgeoning steel industry.

The country this year is to start exploiting its huge coal reserves, will increase gas output and develop more petrochemical projects. Investment in petroleum, petrochemicals and coal alone is budgeted at \$1.6 billion for 1987.



Latin America's model democracy charts a new economic course

Since "Black Friday," most of the money for these schemes has come from international agencies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, or from Venezuela's own resources, because the major banks have linked fresh funds to satisfactory rescheduling of Venezuela's debts.

The debt crisis may not have hit the headlines as often as those of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, but rescheduling has been as monumental as any.

The government feels the banks should shoulder part of the responsibility for the burden, brought on — claims Caracas — by frequently indiscriminate lending.

Many bankers, on the other hand, feel that Venezuela has merely tried to jump on the rescheduling bandwagon.

They point out that the country has agreed to repay principal on its loans, has not fallen behind in interest repayments, has redeemed government bonds punctually on the international market, and has reserves to cover almost two years' imports.

Constant requests for more rescheduling before the previous "final" agreement, however, have had bankers harking nostalgically back to the early 1980s when European gunboats shelled the coast near Caracas as the ultimate weapon in debt collection.

When oil prices dropped last year, Venezuela had to invoke the contingency clause in a just-negotiated agreement to obtain further relief.

The latest agreement, reached in February this year, reduced the amount of principal Venezuela has to repay, stretches repayment over 14 years and lowers the rate of interest.

This time, Venezuela has assured the banks nothing will go wrong.

Finance Minister Manuel Aguero, for one, is confident that implementation of the deal "will open the way for the new international financing" that Venezuela needs for the next stage in its post-Black Friday era.

The Zarqa Basin wins a new future

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

The ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is conducting studies on the establishment of the Arab Institute for the training of mining technicians which is to be implemented in Amman in co-operation with the Arab Organization for Mineral Resources.

The government is considering the possibility of exempting investors who establish rental housing projects outside the capital from 50 per cent of income taxes due on rental revenues and 30 per cent for those who establish similar project in Amman.

Custom fees, additional taxes, and other types of custom duties are to be levied and collected within a unified tariff in order to facilitate administrative procedures.

Studies are being carried on the establishment of an insurance corporation to offer coverage for Jordanian exports as well as funding new banking establishments to finance and insure local exports.

A recent study has revealed a decline in the value of remittances sent by non Jordanian workers. The figures dropped from JD 93 million in 1985 to JD 85 million in 1986 and are expected to fall to JD 80 million within three years. The current number of non Jordanian workers in Jordan amounts to 135,000 down from 143,000 in 1985.

The Prime Ministry has recommended that the establishment of housing projects should be limited to low-income employees and that the monthly instalments should not exceed 25-30 per cent of their salaries.

Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Rajal Al Mousa, is to visit Damascus next June to attend meetings of the General Committee of the Jordanian-Syrian Free Zone company and to hold talks with Syrian officials on increasing bilateral economic co-operation.

A Jordanian commercial and industrial delegation will visit Oman next month to discuss the possibility of establishing joint projects and increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Oman.

Studies are being carried on the exploitation of natural gas in the kingdom as good signs of the quantities have been observed during oil exploration operations.

AMMAN — The Jordanian government has recently committed JD 32.1 million to the Zarqa Basin Development project which has as one of its aims a steady reduction in the area's wheat production in favour of livestock and fruit crops.

At a time when government emphasis is on the achievement of grain security through a boost in local production the move may seem curiously out of character. It is, however, a case of the long term survival of farming land being given priority over immediately more attractive, but unsustainable results and Jordanian's willingness to undertake such a programme has won international praise.

The impetus for the project came originally from the realization that the King Talal Dam was suffering from a serious silting problem. It was soon clear that measures were needed to tackle the problem at its source — the accelerated erosion in the Zarqa river catchment area.

Between 1982 and 1983 a team from West Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), working with Jordanian counterparts, carried out a feasibility study for an erosion control programme in the Zarqa Basin area in conjunction with pilot programmes at Maataba near Jerash and at Hamid near Mafrak.

They developed a programme to cover an area of 826,499 dunums of which 108,250 dunums is owned by the government and 717,249 dunums, or 86.9 per cent is owned by some 5,700 farm families. It is designed to tackle soil erosion and land degradation problems and to establish safe land use patterns that should ensure the area's productive future.

The private land has traditionally been used mainly for livestock rearing but population growth and the proximity of the expanding Amman market have encouraged farmers to intensify production through annual cropping.

At present around 35.4 per cent of the farmed land is used for annual winter crops such as wheat, barley, lentils, chickpeas and vetches together with summer crops of vegetables, tobacco and chickpeas.

A further 16 per cent is used for orchards and produces olives, and grapes and some almonds, figs, plums, apples and other fruit. Grazing land for sheep, goats and cattle takes another 45 per cent.

The change in land use from range to agriculture has been accompanied by changes in cultivation techniques and ploughing with animal draught along contour lines has been replaced by mechanized ploughing up and down slopes which is cheaper and faster but increases the rate of soil erosion. Hand-weeding of orchards has largely been replaced by ploughing three or four times per season, a system which leaves almost no ground cover and again hastens the erosion rate.

Farmers are now being invited to join the project and re-assess their farming priorities. Each farmer signs an initial contract with the programme administration and detailed study of his farm is carried out to establish options for land use patterns which will maintain or improve his production while preventing further soil erosion and land degradation. The farmer will be able to choose a particular option but will sign a contract to follow it and to carry out appropriate conservation measures.

The approach of farm by farm



The problem...

planning under contract has previously been tried only in Australia and its implementation in Jordan will be undertaken in co-operation with Australian consultants SAGRIC International. SAGRIC consultants are already working in Jordan on the Australian Dry Land Farming Project. The company has wide experience of working in the Middle East on projects ranging from rangeland rehabilitation in Algeria and farm development in Libya to the design of sheep handling yards in Saudi Arabia in which they have been introducing techniques developed in South Australia which has a climate and a set of farming problems very close to those of the Middle East.

It is expected that around 65 per cent of the farmers in the area will join the project and there will be a gradual shift away from annual cropping, and towards the more suitable livestock rearing and fruit growing. The wheat crop is expected to decrease from 8,183 tonnes in 1986 to 3,428 tonnes in 2010, while barley will decline from 3,103 tonnes in 1986 to 1,708 tonnes in 2010. In contrast the olive crop should increase from 3,388 tonnes to 12,437 tonnes in the same period, grapes from 725 tonnes to 3,026 tonnes, apricots from 421 tonnes to 5,317 tonnes and figs from 758 tonnes to 11,661 tons. Livestock production is expected to increase from 947 tonnes of sheep and goat meat to 1,528 tonnes, 204 tonnes of beef meat to 220 tonnes and milk production from 6,888 tonnes to 8,956 tonnes.

The farmer will not, however, simply be changing his crop pattern. He will also be carrying out structural measures for soil conservation and, with the support of the project extension services, he will be adopting more suitable farming techniques. Through the use of improved seeds, better seedlings, appropriate land preparation, weed and pest control etc. he should be able to improve his yields in all areas. The final improvement will come with better harvesting, packing and transport of crops to minimize wastage. Financial studies for the project show that participating farmers can expect a satisfactory improvement in their incomes throughout the technical lifespan of the major physical improvements which is reckoned to be at least fifty years.

In all aspects of the farm programme, the contribution of the extension services will be vital. 18 new extension officers have already been appointed and a further 12 will be needed. When the officers, all agricultural engineers, have completed an intensive four week course and in-field training, it is their job to take the the



and the beginning of a solution.



Appropriate machinery has been designed by the project team

project to the farmers. Most people, in the area, officials, agricultural specialists as well as farmers, are already aware that the land is becoming poorer, the extension agents can tell them why and show them what can be done. Without the active co-operation and commitment of the farmers the project has no point, but early experience shows that the extension service is doing its job. Already over 250 farmers have shown their willingness to participate by signing their first contract.

Work on the farms will be complemented by forest development and drought reserves and riverbank protection which, as it deals with national rather than private resources, is government funded and will be carried out by the project administration.

It will include afforestation and reforestation of government land and the establishment of drought reserves through range improvement and management. This will bring the double benefits of reducing erosion, improving water retention and increasing production of fodder and wood in the areas themselves and protecting the farm land being developed in sub-project 1.

A third aspect is the protection of valuable irrigated land along the alluvial terraces of the Zarqa river against erosive action of floods through a combination of structural and vegetative measures. This will also contribute to reducing the siltation in the King Talal Dam and stabilizing the Zarqa river bed and its banks — the original starting point of the project.

The project is a first both in Jordan and in the Middle East and it has already aroused considerable interest from other Arab states, all of which are facing

Iraq boosts non-oil exports

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Iraq has exported 131,000 tonnes of dates over the past six months, a 300 per cent increase over the same period of 1986, according to figures released here Thursday.

The rise in sales gives a further boost to the OPEC member country's drive to promote non-oil exports.

The Soviet Union, Britain, the United States, China, Canada, Singapore, and Arab countries are among major importers of Iraqi dates. Iraq is using modern technology to produce sugar, alcohol, syrup and vinegar from the crop.

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2 M	7 5/16	3 9/16	8 1/2	5 1/8	3 7/8	3 5/8	8 5/8
3 M	7 7/16	3 9/16	8 1/2	5 1/8	3 7/8	3 5/8	8 11/16
6 M	7 11/16	3 5/8	8 5/8	5 1/8	3 7/8	3 5/8	8 3/4
9 M	8	3 11/16	8 11/16	5 1/8	3 15/16	3 5/8	8 3/4
12 M	8 3/16	3 11/16	8 13/16	5 1/8	3 15/16	3 5/8	8 3/4
2 Years	8 5/8	4					
3 Years	9	4 1/4					
4 Years	9 1/8	4 11/16					
5 Years	9 1/4	5					

Source: Finance and Credit Corporation

GOLD
IN
JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday 20 May 1987 were as follows:

18 ct. JD 3.750 per gramme
21 ct. JD 4.300 per gramme
24 ct. JD 5.150 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 4,915.000
Ounce... JD 180.000
Gold Sterling... JD 31
(Central Bank)
Rashedi Pound... JD 35.500
(Seven grammes)

Source: Yousef Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

EXCHANGE RATES

	buy	sell
US dollar	.334	.336
Sterling pound	.555	.565
German mark	.188	.1875
French franc	.0555	.0565
Swiss franc	.225	.2325
Dutch guilder	.165	.166
Italian lire (1000)	.255	.260
Swedish krona	.052	.054
Saudi riyal	.089	.0895
Kuwaiti dinar	1.2225	1.2300
UAE dirham	.0907	.09125
Egyptian pound	.155	.160
Syrian lira	.01080	.01100
Iraqi dinar	.250	.268
Omani riyal	.865	.875

Source: National Jordan Exchange Company

Dollar falls, gold hits 4-year high on US banking worries

LONDON (AP) — The US dollar fell and gold rose to a four-year high of around \$480 in Europe early Wednesday in trading dominated by market jitters over the US banking system.

At midmorning, the dollar was quoted at lower levels against all major world currencies except the Canadian dollar. But traders said the prospect of intervention by central bank in support of the US currency was slowing its decline.

Traders attributed the dollar's slide and gold's parallel rise to heightened concern over the US banking system stemming from huge loans to Latin American countries.

Citicorp, the largest US bank holding company, said Tuesday that it will report a \$2.5 billion loss in the second quarter because it plans to set aside \$3 billion to cover possible losses on foreign loans, mainly to Brazil.

Traders said Citicorp's problems prompted speculation that the Federal Reserve Board might not be able to raise US interest rates to support the dollar.

Midmorning dollar rates compared with rates in Europe late Tuesday's rates:

- 1.7702 West German Marks, down from 1.7780
- 1.4505 Swiss Francs, down from 1.4590
- 5.9225 French Francs, down from 5.9475
- 1.9948 Dutch Guilders, down from 2.0035
- 1.183.50 Italian Lira, down from 1,289.50
- 1.3463 Canadian Dollars, up from 1.3407.

The British pound rose to \$1.8875 from \$1.8820.

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 139.50 Japanese yen, down fractionally from 140.05 yen Tuesday. In later London trading, the dollar held its 139.50 yen level.

Traders said the dollar's narrow trading range against the yen resulted in part from a Japanese Finance Ministry directive Tuesday requiring commercial banks to report their day-to-day currency positions once a week. The action was seen as an attempt to discourage excessive dollar-selling.

Gold bullion prices, meanwhile, advanced in active trading.

The metal opened in London at \$480.90 a troy ounce, up sharply from \$469.50 late Tuesday, later Wednesday, the city's five biggest bullion houses fixed a recommended price of \$479.55.

Gold was bid in Zurich at \$480, up from \$468.50.

It was the highest level for gold in Europe since 22 February 1983, when the metal closed at \$468, in London and \$497.75 in Zurich.

Earlier Wednesday, Gold closed in Hong Kong at a bid of \$479.24 up from \$470.60 Tuesday.

French energy
use
set to rise

PARIS (OPECNA) — French energy consumption will rise by 20 per cent by the turn of the century with oil and nuclear power remaining the main sources of supply, according to the daily "Le Monde".

The newspaper predicts that the country's energy needs by the end of the 1990s will increase to the equivalent of 237.5 million tonnes of oil annually.

It says it also expects the price of crude to hit \$35 a barrel by the year 2000 with an annual increase of up to 1.5 per cent.

The report stresses that the figures are a "source of concern" for the government which it says must campaign for changing attitudes in energy use.

However, the newspaper notes that oil consumption is expected to fall to 80.2 million tonnes annually by the next century compared with 85.5 million tonnes annually by the next century compared with 85.5 million in 1986.

Nuclear power, which is predicted to almost double the country's present capacity of 56.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent by the end of the century, will be the main source of energy, says the report.

Natural gas use is also projected to increase from 23.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent last year to 32.2 million by the turn of the century.

Trading steady, prices low

By Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star Financial Market Analyst

SHARES OF the industrial sector especially the Jordan Silicochemicals Company enjoyed the highest demand while prices of most companies' shares continued to plunge. The volume of trading remained stable.

1,273,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 2,315,000 divided among 2,300 contracts.

The daily handling average came to JD 465,000 with a deviation of 16 per cent or 3 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating stability at the market.

The share of 68 companies were handled from which 23 companies gained including:

- 1- National Insurance Co. closing at JD 1.330 up from JD 1.200
- 2- Wool Industries Co. closing at JD .840 up from JD .680
- 3- Poultry and Cattle closing at JD .800 up from JD .750

34 companies lost including:

- 1- Cairo Amman Bank closing at JD 22.300 down from JD 26.000
- 2- General Insurance Co. closing at JD 1.350 down from JD 1.500
- 3- Irbid Electricity Co. closing at JD .820 down from JD 1.000
- 4- Arab Paper Manufacturing closing at JD .330 down from JD .360

11 Companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 242,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 135,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sector according to the following percentages:

Sectors	Market share
Bank	24.8%
Industry	73%
Services	.8%
Insurance	1%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded, by sector

Banks (out of 22 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
1- Arab Bank Ltd	15.2%	3.7%
2- National Bank	13.5%	3.4%
3- National Financial & Investments Co	13.4%	3.3%
4- Jordan Finance House	53%	38.7%
Industrials (out of 29 traded)		
1- Jordan Silicochemicals Co.	15.5%	11.5%
2- Arab Aluminium Industry	10%	7.3%
3- Textiles Factorios Co.	22.4%	2%
Services (out of 8 traded)		
1- Ad-Dsoutour Newspaper	47.3%	7%
Insurance (out of 11 traded)		
1- Jordan French Insurance Co.		

WEEKLY AVERAGE

Date	Bank	Insurance	Services	Industries	Average
13-5	-1.3%	-1.1%	zero	-1.2%	-1.1%
14-5	-3%	+1.9%	-4.1%	+2%	-2%
17-5	-2%	+1.3%	+4%	+3%	-8%
18-5	-4%	-2.4%	-3%	-9%	zero
19-5	zero	zero	zero	zero	-2.1%
Total					

Saudi loans to Malta

RIYADH (OPECNA) — The Saudi Fund for Development is to extend a \$11.3 million loan to Malta to help finance the second phase of a port project.

The \$203.6 million facility will act as a major transshipment centre in the Mediterranean.

The loan, signed by Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Alfred Abela and fund managing director Mohammed Al-Sagoff last week in Malta, brings total fund lending to the island country to \$41.5 million.

A fund statement said the loan reflected the close bond of friendship linking the two countries and the Kingdom's willingness to support Malta's economic development.



A pest control officer inspects rice pest with some Bangladeshi farmers to see if full scale, emergency aerial spraying is needed to reduce crop damage

A choice between health, hunger

By Tahmina Ahmad

THE DANISH International development Agency (DANIDA), which has until recently been supporting aerial insecticide spraying in Bangladesh, is this month sending a mission to the country which will investigate reports of adverse effects of the spraying on human beings.

There are stories of nausea, damage to sexual impulses, and even congenital defects in babies. Whatever the truth may be, DANIDA says it believes that Bangladesh is contravening guidelines issued by the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Bank on the use of pesticides. Applications for future funding from DANIDA to support spraying programmes have been postponed, the agency says. But the issue for Bangladesh is stark: how hungry do people have to be before they become willing to eat food which they know might be poisonous?

The widespread aerial application of pesticides to rice paddies and grain fields is greatly increasing food supply in an underfed country — but it may also be causing medical harm. Unfortunately, the national environmental protection agency has had to turn a blind eye to the issue, for lack of funds to pursue what were initially worrying findings, so the true medical impact of the pesticides is difficult to determine.

What is certain is that Bangladesh needs more food. With 80 per cent of its people living well below the poverty line, Bangladesh needs all it can produce. The population of more than 100 million is growing at a galloping rate of 2.5 per cent a year — which means it could double within the next 30 years; and the land will not double with it.

Pests are the perennial enemy. Insects destroy some 10-15 per cent of the country's 18 million tonnes annual production of food grains. In 1986, the rice shortage was around 1.2 million tonnes. Rice, the staple food, is produced on about 10 million hectares of crop lands. But this year, the border districts of Khulna and Jessore have already recorded about 26,000 hectares of heavy attacks by rice hoppers, a rapidly multiplying migratory beetle. In 1986, rice stem-borers attacked crops in the plainlands of Munshiganj. Swarming caterpillars damaged rice plants in the coastal areas of Chittagong and in Sandwip, where landless farmers have been resettled, brown plant hoppers and swarming caterpillars have been causing havoc.

Rice hoppers are the most damaging pest. A small, shiny beetle, it feeds on the paddy leaves and causes heavy damage to the rice plants. The brown plant hopper and the rice ear-cutting caterpillar are also greatly feared by rice cultivators. Other attacking insects are swarming caterpillars, green leaf hopper, rice case-worm, rice stem-borer, rice bugs and rice thrips. It is no wonder, then, that one of the top agricultural priorities of the government of Bangladesh is to control field and storage pests, to minimize the amount of food lost — and that means pesticides.



When there is spraying, it is not always possible to avoid homes and people who are reporting nausea, rashes, and other ill-effects

Farmers in Khulna, Jessore, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Bhola speak highly of the aerial spraying and the effect it has had on the pest population. Talking to them reveals that aerial spraying of the pest-infested deep-water rice lands has given them a major boost in morale. Farmers Adab Ali, Ismael and Karam Ali of Bhola said it showed that the government cared enough to try to stop the pest epidemics on their land. Four tenant farmers I spoke to — Mohammed Wadud, Billa Mia, Shukruddin and Sharif Ali of Bhola — especially appreciated the impact of the aerial sprays. They said that timely spraying by the government had not only saved their crops, but also saved them from having to migrate to the urban areas in search of food and jobs. They said severe crop infestation brought famine — when they had no alternative but to flee to the cities in order to survive.

Clearly, therefore, no one is im-

posing the chemical sprays on the people of Bangladesh; on the contrary, they actually welcome them. This may be the case because chemical pesticides have over the years come to be linked in the farmers' minds with modernism. They show very little interest in alternative means of pest control.

Nevertheless, worries have begun to be expressed about the effect of the chemicals on human health, not to mention their destruction of beneficial insects, bugs, parasites and micro-organisms which maintain a natural ecological balance by feeding on the rice pests. Personnel at the government-run Environment Pollution Control Board indicate that aerial spraying of chemical insecticides may have caused some health problems, including hormonal imbalance in males and females, and congenital birth defects. This department has unfortunately been seriously hampered in its follow-up studies by curtailment of funds over the past 18 months. The staff had been investigating the impact of aerial-spray chemicals on people and on the flora and fauna.

Following their lead, I spoke to a sample of 20 landless peasants in chemically-sprayed areas in low-lying parts of Dhaka, Chittagong, Bhola and Sandwip. Some of the farm workers revealed that they have experienced a complete loss of sex-drive for a period of more than two months after inhaling the chemicals sprayed on to the fields. Family-planning staff in Dhaka, Chittagong and Bhola confirmed that there was a decrease in demand for contraceptives by farmers immediately after an area was chemically sprayed. Midwives and field workers spoke of a higher percentage of congenital birth defects, though the local people saw no link between this and the chemical spraying.

Nevertheless, a sample of women in the sprayed areas said that they experienced extremes of nausea, irritation of the skin and rashes after the aerial sprayings. Some of them left for other areas temporarily to avoid the strong smell of the chemicals. Apart from the DANIDA response, so far such complaints have had little effect on the bulk of the Bangladesh spraying programme. But a closer analysis of the complaints is certainly needed, so that a proper balance between hunger and possible poisoning can be made — and some thought given to more benign methods of pest management such as biological control.

(Panos Features)

Tahmina Ahmad is Dhaka correspondent of Asala week.

An
Arab
alternative

THE PROSPECTS of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East have diminished after the Israeli inner cabinet last Wednesday failed to accept the proposal. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who favours the plan, is no longer capable of dismantling his Labour Party's coalition with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc after the latter persuaded extremist Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz to return to the cabinet as interior minister. Shamir's move has virtually blocked Peres' effort to get the necessary vote in the Knesset to topple the government and call for early elections.

Peres' endeavour to rally the support of US Jewish leaders for the idea of the conference also is not expected to lead to any concrete change. Shamir can argue with the same ferocity against the conference and even if Peres succeeded in convincing the Jewish leaders of the soundness of the idea, the result will have little bearing on Israel.

Neither Shamir's obstinate stance is likely to be altered by a clear-cut US official endorsement of the conference. On the eve of the inner cabinet meeting, US Secretary of State George Shultz sent a message to Israeli leaders urging them to agree to an international peace conference. Shamir nevertheless rejected Shultz's request and later warned the US against interference in Israel's internal affairs.

Shamir's views, however, received a boost from US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy who during his recent tour of the Gulf, tried to play down the significance of the conference in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, preferring instead direct peace negotiations.

It has become clear now that those who have wagered on the international conference should reconsider their positions and seek an alternative. For the moment, the most effective one is holding an Arab summit meeting to discuss how to deal collectively with the deadly stalemate which will inevitably ensue after efforts to convene the international conference have apparently collapsed.

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Need to co-operate

THE INADVERTENT Iraqi air strike at the US frigate in the Gulf, though undoubtedly the result of a regrettable mistake, has alerted world capitals, including Washington, to the grave dangers inherent in the continuation of the Iran-Iraq conflict and the ease with which the war could expand and escalate to engulf other nations.

The attack on the American frigate occurred one day after a Soviet ship hit a mine off the shores of Dubai. Both incidents have made it clear that the two superpowers cannot escape the consequences if they let the war continue and fail to take quick measures to bring it to an end.

US officials, including President Ronald Reagan, were almost unanimous in using the 'Stark' incident as one that demonstrates the need to reach a negotiated settlement to the seven-year old conflict. It remains to be seen how Washington is going to act to bring about the dearly-cherished solution.

Under the newly-emerging circumstances, the two superpowers are expected now to co-operate rather than compete in order to halt the fighting. For it is no longer acceptable by either of them to manipulate this disastrous situation for its own interest, when the interests of the world at large are threatened by the meaningless Iran-Iraq conflict.

A special meeting of the UN Security Council at foreign ministerial level to debate mandatory measures to stop the war is an old proposal that needs now to be put into effect. A joint effort by the two superpowers within such framework will surely solve the problem.

Crucial elections

AFTER MUCH speculation, through a period which the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dangled invitingly the specific date for elections before the British public and leaders of the opposition parties, the campaigning for the June election, which is likely to change the face of British politics, has started off with a bang. Public opinion and Gallup polls prove that the ruling Conservative Party enjoys a comfortable lead in popularity over their opponents. Moreover, although Thatcherism and its emphasis on private enterprise has not gone down well, the British economy is at the moment buoyant, and the much debated high unemployment figures are beginning to slide down.

Of course, the Conservatives have committed some political blunders in the field of education, national health scheme and the avidity for selling off nationalized enterprises. But Mrs Thatcher's recent visit to the Soviet Union, and the rapport struck with Kremlin boss Gorbachev, has greatly boosted her stand as a great stateswoman. No doubt, she is confident of returning comfortably to No 10 Downing Street.

The debate now raging is, which of the opposition parties is likely to form the majority in the House of Commons. Labour leader Neil Kinnock is assured of traditionally safe Labour seats. But the party's confused statements on British nuclear policy and the 'ugly dealings' of what Thatcher termed the 'loony left' is bound to be an expensive gamble. Moreover, Labour can no longer rely safely on the Trades Union Congress' traditional support. David Steel and David Owen of the SDP/Alliance were the first to come out with their party's manifesto. The manner in which they have launched their campaign proves that they mean to be taken seriously.

Whichever party comes out in the forefront is not as important as the policies it is bound to follow on the international arena. The most important issue is how to find an answer to the Soviet Union's zero option of dismantling Euro-missiles. Also, the victorious party in the British elections — even if it attempts to ward it off — is likely to become involved in Middle East affairs. Traditionally, Britain had been linked to the Middle East through commerce, cultural exchange and a colonial past. Moreover, recent visits to Britain by His Majesty King Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, further promoted the already established links.

What concerns us at the moment in the Middle East is the question of convening the international peace conference which is expected to bring a lasting and just solution to the chaotic state of affairs in the region. The party which emerges victorious on 11 June in Britain, should be prepared to put pressure on Israel and the US to come to the peace conference table.



Bernie Grant



Zerbano Gifford

Britain's ethnic vote

By David Spark
Special to The Star

around many Asians will switch in their favour.

LONDON — About a million people whose origins are in Asia, Africa or the West Indies will have their say in the British general elections which conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called for in June. The ethnic vote will be too small to influence the overall outcome, but it is almost certain to play a role in the election of Britain's first black MP of modern times.

According to forecasters here, six candidates from minority ethnic groups could take seats in the House of Commons on behalf of the Labour Party, which has been in opposition since 1979. At past elections, many Asians in Britain were not registered for voting. This time, however, electoral registration officers in London and a research study in northern cities suggest that Asian registration is as high as any other.

Virendra Sharma, whose task is to persuade local Labour parties to give minority members bigger roles, says Asians and Afro-Caribbeans make up one-fifth or more of the register in 85 of the total 650 constituencies. In the London constituency of Brent South they account for more than half.

So how will they vote, and how might they influence the result in individual areas?

According to analyst Muhammad Anwar in his recent book 'Race and Politics', more than 80 per cent of Asian and Afro-Caribbean people voted for the Labour Party in the last election. In 1983, in which Labour won 208 seats against the Conservatives' 394, Labour/Social Democrat Alliance candidates took 27 seats, while 21 were won by Independents and parties in Northern Ireland.

Another researcher, Marian Fitzgerald, says minority groups were Labour's most loyal supporters, 'more loyal even' than the traditionally socialist coal miners. There are exceptions, though. The election success of Liberal Cyril Smith in the northern town of Rochdale were founded in part on a close association with the Pakistani community. Another northern Liberal MP, Michael Meadows, who lost his seat in Leeds West, said recently, 'If Asians hadn't elected me, I wouldn't be here.'

Observers, however, expect most Asians and West Indians to stay with Neil Kinnock's Labour Party, even in constituencies where one of the other parties has an ethnic-minority candidate. Ghazul Khan, editor of a local Bengali newspaper, said of London-Bangladeshis, 'They feel at home with the Labour Party. They are on its local committees. They think it's the party which works for ethnic communities and will translate their hopes into reality.'

Said Michel Le Lohé of Bradford University, 'Many Asians are naturally conservative in economic outlook. Their emphasis on the family, of pulling yourself up by your bootstraps, makes them ideal Conservative prospects. But, it won't change quickly. The second generation faces worse problems of unemployment. Then there is the visa system for visitors. None of this endears the government to the Asian community.'

Bradford, also in the north of England, is a major industrial city and has one of the biggest Asian communities in the country. Said Meadows, 'The influence of community leaders is not as strong as it used to be. The Labour Party believes it owns the ethnic minority vote, and it doesn't. Candidates of the Conservative, Liberal and Social Democratic parties hope that this time

Nirj Deva, former editor of the moderate Conservative magazine 'Crossbow' and grandson of a Sri Lankan senator, is standing in the London constituency of Hamersmith, won narrowly by Labour in 1983. He believes the local council, just back in Labour control, is alienating people by rising the rates, or property tax, by 50 per cent.

Why is he a Conservative? 'I had the sense to realise that, if you're going to live in Britain, you belong to one nation, rather than Labour's polarized ideas,' Zerbano Gifford, who was born in India, is standing for the Liberals in the prosperous Harrow East constituency, near London, currently held by the Conservatives. Twenty-two per cent of the voters are Asian, most of them Gujaratis from East Africa. 'I shall be heartbroken if I don't get a big vote from them,' said Gifford. 'At the last election, the Gujaratis voted conservative.'

Manzoor Moghal, a financial consultant from Leicestershire, is standing for the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in Bradford West, which has a big Pakistani electorate. 'We haven't a substantial Asian membership (in the SDP), but we have substantial Asian support,' he said. Britain's Asian and Afro-Caribbean voters will not have a major impact on the overall election result. Most of the areas in which they are strong in numbers already are labour-held — and Labour did so badly in 1983 it is not expected to lose many seats this time.

There are only a handful of constituencies in which minority voters are strong and Conservatives have small majorities. Two are in the Midlands city of Leicester, where one of the Labour candidates is Keith Vaz, whose background is Goanese. Although Leicester's East African Asians may not vote solidly for him, he could be one of six Labour MPs from the minorities in the next parliament.

The first Indian, a Parsee, was elected as a Liberal nearly 100 years ago, but parliament since the late 1920s have been all-white. The last 'black' MP was Shapurji Saklatvala, elected in 1924 as Communist member for Battersea in south London. Three of the six Labour hopefuls have been selected for safe seats in London. They include Bernie Grant (Tottenham), who has his thrust to national prominence by his defence last year of rioters at the Broadwater Farm housing estate, where a policeman was hacked to death. The others are Paul Boateng (Brent South), a civil rights lawyer with a Ghanaian background, and Denis Abbott, who has displaced the sitting left-wing MP as candidate in Hackney North.

Abbott, the first black Englishwoman to study at Cambridge University, has worked in the civil service and in television. Most of the likely six are associated with the Labour left wing and with a campaign to form separate black sections of the party. They are thus doubly controversial.

The left-controlled Brent Council in London, for example, has engaged in a widely-publicized attempt to eradicate any hint of racism in education and other public areas, binding conflict with white teachers in the borough. The mainstream of the Labour party is opposed to the hard left, and opposes the campaign for black sections.

David Spark is a freelance journalist based in London.

Relaxing with death in a strange society

By Bill Cain
Special to The Star

WATCHING CROCODILES kill antelope is one way to relax on a tropical afternoon in South Africa. Slow death at a safe distance allows plenty of time to think. We were in the Kruger National Park, and our young Shangan guide nodded toward a listless buck on the opposite bank of the river by which we had camped. Almost directly beneath us five, six, then seven wide-backed crocodiles stealthily redeployed, without a ripple, to cover the bank. We looked down on the submerged reptiles as the antelope picked its way toward the sandy edge, tormented by the competing prospect of water and sudden death. I could shoot and the antelope would flee to safety. But what would be the point? A buck survives at noon to die at dusk. My daughter poured tea into three plastic cups. She was enjoying the restful break from school.

The Shangan and I slipped to the distant sorting of hippos upstream. The scene was set for violent death only a few yards away, yet the venue, as always, seemed tranquil after the stress of Johannesburg. The turmoil of South Africa and our home, midway between Soweto and Alexandra townships, seemed a million miles away.

Open's Dam, secluded, still, is my favourite spot in the Kruger park. The Shangan had been a factory worker in Pretoria, South Africa's bustling administrative capital, and made good money, but he preferred the meager life of the bush. Life in black townships on the fringe of high-rise cities, especially for a rural boy, is hostile and hazardous.

The murder toll in Soweto alone, long before the present unrest, reached 1,000 victims a year. Rapes ran into thousands. There was violence long before Soweto became a household word. Just how cheap life is in Africa was brought starkly home to me when our maid, a happy-go-lucky middle-aged Sotho, was butchered with two other women one night in a neighbourhood shopping centre.

Black neighbours whispered that they were 'muti' killings.

Why 'muti'? I asked. Our maid was superstitious. She slept with the legs of her bed on four house bricks, to ward off evil spirits, but she had nothing to do with witchcraft. They whispered, 'Some parts of the body are good for 'muti' magic.'

Death is ever-present in Africa, often only inches away. My daughter and I still disagree on whether it was a black or green mamba, with the size, shape and speed of a bullwhip, that struck the windscreen wipers. Violent death has become so common that even outwardly compassionate friends and neighbours, who are upset at a dog run over, now are brutalized by years of seemingly endless and wanton killing of humans.

Little thought is given for the countless victims and even less for their killers, who are still hanged in batches of four, five and even six at a time in Pretoria Central Prison.

South Africa's warm-hearted society has hardened generally to the point where a thief can be shot in the gutter — as they often are — without so much as holding up the traffic. Years before the present politically-inspired unrest, 28 people were murdered one Christmas Eve in Soweto knife fights. The carnage barely rated 28 lines in the next editions of local newspapers. Any weekend even now between 16 and 20 murders occur in the sprawling township tagged onto the south-west corner of Johannesburg's neat, white suburbs.

In such a strange society, it is much easier to feel more concerned about one eland buck. Death, while eating fresh grass sandwiches, can even be relaxing. Tragedy in Africa can be a slow-motion dream that can be switched off or re-run according to the mood of the spectator.

There is a silent shimmer directly below us. A crocodile gathers speed as it rises from the gloomy bottom. The prey has time only to jolt its head in bewilderment before the smooth surface erupts against its snout. The buck bounds back disjointedly. Its legs

collapse, and it lies petrified as the crocodile finds a grip and heaves its gasping victim backwards into the pool. The eland is inched along in mute agony and gazes at the sky as other reptiles tear it apart.

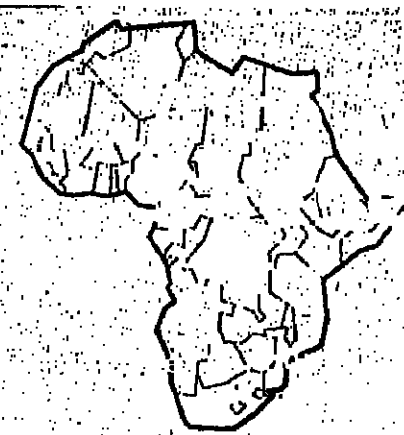
My daughter offered the Shangan a meringue, a treat we'd saved until last. Now that we could talk in more than whispers, the Shangan told how every Friday night the 'tsotsis' — ruthless gangs of roving thugs — stabbed or threw out of moving trains workers who refused to hand over their wages. 'I hid my pay in a sock, and they stole my shoes as well,' he said. To resist or even protest costs a life in the rush-hour bustle. He'd had enough of city life.

On previous visits to Open's Dam, guards usually emerged with what looked like World War II Lee Enfield. 303 rifles that might or might not go off. Mostly they were ornamental, but reassuring where lion snooze against a fresh carcass. The shangan had no weapon, even though we were nine miles along a dirt road from the nearest rest camp. It was only a matter of time before he was killed as he cycled through the bush to work. He had been lucky once when run down from behind by a frenzied buffalo that was being chased by a lion.

As we prepared to leave the dam, the Shangan declined a lift but accepted two cans of warm lager. I told him simply, 'You're a silly man. Soon you will die.' In his own language, my daughter said, 'The leopard goes faster than a bicycle.'

He smiled widely at the schoolgirls' concern. The line between life and death in Africa is not as sharply drawn as it is in the West, and the age of transition not so important. To reassure her he walked a few paces alongside the jeep and said through the window, 'There is more danger in Pretoria rush hour.'

Bill Cain is a British journalist who has lived in South Africa for 11 years. He is now a sports editor in the Gulf, but his home is still in Johannesburg.



Zambia — IMF shackles

WHEN Brazil took the unprecedented and bold decision to stop paying interest on its foreign debt, many predicted that African nations, which have been 'suffocating' in the economic vice of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), were bound to follow suit. Thus President Kenneth Kaunda's recent announcement that Zambia is 'pushing for radical alternatives to the IMF's standard medicine of economic austerity,' is not much of a surprise.

World Bank and IMF officials, received Zambia's decision with a big shock. And they have reasons. Since the late 1970's, Zambia has been regarded as a model African state prepared to adopt in toto the typical IMF directives and swallow its bitter medicine through a rough economic throat. Initially, this pancea worked and greatly helped to boost production in the agricultural sector since higher prices encouraged farmers to produce more.

But the 'good days' were not to last. For the other aspects of the IMF dose — removal of subsidies, devaluation of the Zambian currency — had led to 'lower living standards, rising unemployment, dangerous social tensions and an increasingly unmanageable foreign debt.'

As a result, Zambia finds itself trapped in a deadly vicious circle of poverty. To demonstrate their phobia for the IMF, Zambians recently protested against a 70 per cent rise in fuel prices, and last December's food riots led to the death of 15 people. Of course, a prudent and shrewd politician like Kaunda felt the price being paid for 'obedience' to the IMF was just too high.

Zambia, finds itself in this stifling situation because its economic survival is centred around the copper mines. And low prices for this mineral on the world market, has hit the copper mines very hard indeed. Thus the country has no alternative but to borrow huge sums to pay for the much needed imports.

Zambia's tough stand necessitates a complete re-examination of IMF policies because countries like Zaire, Sudan and Nigeria have also been feeling the heat. It is apparent that in dealing with African countries, the IMF is completely ignorant of the complexities of the problems affecting the respective nations. All of them are handed the same recipes. Many Africans feel that there is a subtle IMF strategy to keep Africans politically emancipated but without being economically free.

So how is Zambia going to tread its path out of this murky situation? Kaunda, being the astute statesman he is, may have the solution. For a start, he has made it clear that 'Zambia's meagre foreign exchange resources will now be ploughed into productive ventures in order to reactivate the economy.' But the country seriously needs to encourage the substitution of local products for imported ones if its factories are to be kept working. This could take the pressure off the meagre foreign exchange.

Zambia, as a developing country, certainly needs all the economic help it can obtain. However, it needs an economic aid with a human face.

War ghosts of the past

By Russell Warren Howe
Special to The Star

TOKYO — Are 'war crimes' trials justified? Haven't war always been a despicable business, and weren't the Nuremberg and Tokyo show trials just vindictiveness by the victors over the vanquished after World War II?

Were the 'rape of Nanking' and the 'bataan death march' more immoral than the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or the killing of scores of thousands of civilians in the Allied incendiary raids on Dresden and Tokyo?

Given his geographically more limited field of action, wasn't Pol Pot of Kampuchea worse than the Nazis' Hitler and Japan's Tojo? Didn't My Lai, Delir Yassin and countless other atrocities prove that in warfare depravity under stress is universal? These and other questions are raised in a new book (?) by American journalist Arnold C. Brackman, who covered the Tokyo Trials 39 years ago.

It appears on the heels of a recently published symposium on the trials by Japanese intellectuals, and at a time when a new generation of Japanese question whether Japan's bid to create a colonial empire was any worse than that of other countries. The 1945 trials of 28 'Class A' war criminals resulted in 26 convictions, including seven death sentences, the most notable being that of Gen. Hideki Tojo, the wartime prime minister.

Brackman points out numerous irregularities in the 'judicial process'. The alleged offences took place before the laws passed to repress them. Gen Douglas MacArthur, then commanding the Allied occupation of Japan, forbade the defendants to call their own witnesses. Emperor Hirohito, by testifying that he had acted under his orders or by his approval, he would have made MacArthur's decision to give the Emperor immunity from prosecution contradictory.

There were many other restraints on the defence and the rules of evidence were changed mid-trial. One of the 11 judges — all from different countries — and been a prisoner of war of the Japanese and had suffered mistreatment logically he should

have recused himself. Capital punishment normally requires unanimity, but it was voted in this case by a thin majority of six judges to five. One of those in favour, the Australian chief justice, had missed five weeks of the trial and most of the major testimony.

While highlighting the irregularities, Brackman concludes that the Tokyo trials were justified and necessary. He concedes, however, that they engendered resentment in Japan. Most Japanese, while agreeing that Japan's 13 years of warfare in Asia and the Pacific were both politically mistaken and internationally unacceptable, note that the empire they were blamed for seizing by force had been seized by force earlier by Britain, France and the Netherlands, who lost no time re-seizing it by force all over again.

Although historians may argue that Japan's lightning victories in 1942 subsequently brought colonialism to an end, a generation sooner than might otherwise have been the case, most of Japan's former conquests still view Tokyo with suspicion. The Asian Press regularly publishes reports suggesting there is a revival of 'minzoku-shu' — ethnic chauvinism — in Japan.

Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone has reinforced this impression of 'racism' by using the word 'minzoku' (ethnos) in his speeches in place of 'kokumin' (people) when referring to the Japanese. Right-wing movements are active, notably the Kokumin Kaigi and the Shokyo Rengo. The latter is the Japanese branch of the World Anti-Communist League, headquartered in Washington and financed by the Unification Church (the 'Moonies').

In Japan's 1986 elections, both organizations financed candidates of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its semi-partner, the Democratic Socialist Party, against the two main opposition groups, the Japanese Communist Party and Komeito ('Clean Government Party'), a Buddhist organization.

But for every effort by Japan's Asian critics to smelt a revival of 'manifest destiny' in Tokyo's political philosophy, there are equally ample indications that the Japanese government is guilty of little more than

national pride at seeing an ancient and stylish civilization become the world's second economy — surpassing that of the Soviet Union, which has twice Japan's population. For instance, when the educational foundation of the Kokumin Kaigi brought out a 'revised' history book for schools which glossed over Japan's wartime degradations, the teachers' union refused to use it and the government made changes to placate Tokyo's former vassals in Asia.

When Education Minister Masayuki Fujio said that the Korean monarchy had 'requested' a Japanese protectorate in 1910, Nakasone dismissed him and apologized to Seoul. When China and Korea objected to Nakasone visiting the Yashukuni Shrine to Japan's war dead in 1985, the former junior lieutenant in the Imperial Navy cancelled his planned 1986 visit although most of Japan's Western allies found it tasteless to object to a prime minister showing respect for his fallen comrades.

When Japanese critics of Korean, Chinese, Okinawan, Eurasian and aboriginal descent lambasted Nakasone for saying Japan was 'minzoku kokka' (a monoethnic nation), the premier hastily noted that his busy eyebrows and blue chin indicated he was partly 'Ainu' (aboriginal) himself.

The country's powerful press, especially the 'Asahi Shimbun' and the 'Mainichi Shimbun', each with about eight million circulation, have forcefully opposed any controversial aspects of Japanese chauvinism or militarism. They have gone to war on the Self-Defence Agency's proposed official Secrets Bill, which they say is as Britain's and claim is reminiscent of Japan's notorious Public Order Maintenance Act of 1923, which led to the creation of the 'Kempeitai', or 'thought police'.

Interestingly, the new wave of writers about national pride are mostly not disgruntled war veterans, but youngish intellectuals whose common characteristic is their expertise on Western cultures. Most intellectuals — as Japanese films often blithely reflect — believe the present Japanese bourgeoisie needs shaking up and that the Japanese should be as proud of their culture as other successful nations.

New US study urges contact with Iran

By James S Dorsey
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON — A recently-published study of Iran's armed forces could provide guidelines for attempts by the United States to improve relations with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic Republic.

The study, 'The Iranian Military Under the Islamic Republic,' suggests the United States should create a situation to enable Iranian military officials to open channels of communication at a time of their choosing. It also urges the Reagan administration to encourage America's allies to maintain ties with Iran, which would enable them to act as middlemen when the opportunity arises.

The unclassified study by the Rand Corporation, commissioned by the Pentagon, concludes that the succession to Ayatollah Khomeini, the 64 year old spiritual leader of Iran who is rumored to be in bad health, probably will be smooth and not result in significant domestic turmoil.

Three years of research by the study's author, Nikola B Shahgaldian, were completed before last November's revelations of Reagan's ill-starred attempts to establish contact with Iran, which were sweetened with US arms shipments.

"Our results do not lead us to conclude that internal instability is likely — quite the opposite," the study says. "Iran's ruling clerical establishment has proven itself to be a far more durable institution under pressure than the Pahlavi family."

Shahrough Akhavi, a professor of government and international studies at the University of South Carolina, reaches a similar conclusion in an article in 'The Middle East Journal.' "At bottom, the elite is unified enough to prevent the opposition from mounting a challenge to its rule," Akhavi writes. "But this is largely due to the fragmentation of that opposition."

which is riven with factionalism."

By implication, Shahgaldian's study questions Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's opposition to any overture to Iran because of its alleged support for terrorism and its radical anti-Americanism. Weinberger was one of two cabinet officials who opposed Reagan's attempts to improve relations with Tehran.

Nevertheless, Shahgaldian draws a scenario for the unlikely event of a domestic power struggle that could threaten the regime's stability. "Conflict would have to begin with a split, probably over possession of Khomeini's mantle, between two or more of the senior clerics," she writes. Such a conflict would probably spread to the ranks of the Pasdaran, Iran's revolutionary guard, which constitutes a significant element of the military.

The Pasdaran was created in the wake of the Iranian revolution eight years ago because of the clergy's distrust of the regular armed forces, which had been largely loyal to the Shah. Describing the Pasdaran as "one of the most important institutions in future internal Iranian politics," the study says it consists of competing groups which are loyal to individual religious leaders.

"It is conceivable that in the event of a succession deadlock the leading clerical contenders could call on their Pasdar allies for political and even military support, leading to the possibility of the spread of outright conflict within the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) itself," the study says.

Both Shahgaldian and Akhavi note that clerics have on occasion employed factions of the Pasdaran to fight their local battles. Akhavi cites incidents in the cities of Isfahan and Shiraz.

But, such a development says Shahgaldian would not threaten the regime's Islamic character. "Iran would be governed by one or

another faction within the Islamic Republic Party," she writes.

Iran's regular armed forces — "one of the least religious, most modernized and most nationalist state organs" — are unlikely to play a major role in shaping the country's future, the study says, because:

— They have been deployed on the Gulf War front far from the centres of power.

— Their command structure is decentralized and tailored to maximize the regime's political control.

— They have little coup-making experience.

"In addition, since the Islamic revolution the Iranian officer corps has witnessed the emergence of an increasing number of junior level officers who have accepted the regime's ideology and political directives," the study says. "At present, this type of officer constitutes the most dynamic, fastest growing, and most powerful group within the regular armed forces."

Shahgaldian and Akhavi, differ radically, however, in their assessment of relations between the regular military and the Pasdaran. "Tension between the professional military and the IRGC has subsided considerably," Shahgaldian writes.

"Six years of shared experience against Iraq, more efficient logistical support rendered by the IRGC to the professional military, and joint planning and co-ordination all have helped to foster a rapprochement between the two wings of the Iranian military."

Akhavi cites incidents in which the two wings have clashed and the arrest several months ago of Mohammed Mehdi Ketibbi, chief of army intelligence, for allegedly leaking military secrets.

"The army has accomplished no service in the war," Akhavi quotes Ayatollah Khomeini as saying. "Whatever martyrs we have given come from the Pasdaran and the Basij (volunteers)"

Frigate moves again toward Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The crippled USS Stark was being towed slowly toward Bahrain Tuesday after American sailors controlled reignited fires in its missile-blasted portside, marine salvage executives reported.

They had earlier reported the guided-missile frigate dead in the water because movement kept fires aboard flashing up.

Several American sailors who survived the Sunday Iraqi air raid on the guided-missile frigate remained on board Tuesday and were fighting the rebusters, the salvage officers reported earlier.

Twenty-eight members of the 132 crew were killed in the attack Sunday, the deadliest strike on a ship in the Gulf since the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980.

US ambassador to Bahrain, Sam Zakhem, told a news conference late Monday that two sailors are still missing since two French-made exocet missiles fired by a Mirage F-1 fighter jets attacked the Stark.

A US embassy diplomat said it was not possible to contact the frigate Tuesday to determine whether the situation had changed. "Radio links to the scene (of the Stark) are completely tied up, the communications are jammed, and I cannot determine what that means," said the diplomat, who refused to be identified.

But the salvage officials said the Stark was being towed by one of three American warships that have been helping it. They are the destroyer LaSalle, the flagship for the Middle East task force, the USS Wadell and the USS Cunningham.

Bodies of the dead navymen were moved to the USS LaSalle and diplomats said they would be brought to Bahrain later en route to the United States.

The Pentagon on Monday said 37 people were killed in the attack Sunday.

Commander Robert Prucha said 22 of the victims have been positively identified, and 15 are missing and presumed dead. He could not say whether the dead were lost overboard or still in the wreckage.

As a result of the devastating Iraqi attack on the US warship, President Reagan on Monday put the forces in the Gulf on heightened alert and warned both Iran and Iraq their jets will be shot down if they threaten other US ships.

Reagan's response was coupled with a demand that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's government immediately explain, apologize and compensate the victims' families and the US navy.

Hussein, in a letter to Reagan delivered to the state department on Monday, expressed "deepest regret over the painful incident." Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "We feel it does represent an apology. It does not address the matter of compensation."

"We're not treating the attack lightly," said defense secretary Caspar Weinberger on the CBS television network. "We're not treating it as a mere accident" but he added, "we have no evidence to indicate that it was anything other than an accident, a ghastly accident."

Weinberger said US ships would remain in the area. "They should be there because these are international waters, and we cannot be driven out of international waters by anyone," he said.

Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi, in a radio broadcast monitored in Cyprus, said the Gulf is not a safe place for the superpowers and said about the attack on the US ships, "the great Satan has been trapped."

Fitzwater said Iran and Iraq, the two belligerents, had been officially notified of the "higher state of alert for US vessels in the area."

ing that the main key for solving the Lebanese crisis, remains in the hands of the Lebanese themselves, who can succeed or fail of any initiatives towards national reconciliation. It referred to the role of Damascus as mediator, and said that Syria is viewed as the sole rescuer of Lebanon.

Peace conference and Israeli manoeuvres

Al Khaleej Al Youm, a Qatari paper, warned against Israel's and the United States' real intentions with regard to the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East. It pointed out that there are actually no differences between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres regarding the Israeli conference. However the Israeli media is trying to convince the world that deep differences do exist between the two leaders.

The paper added that the Zionist entity is currently aware of the world's desire to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and is also aware of Israel's illicit, and is also aware of Israel's overt and covert manoeuvres to hamper the convening of such a conference. On the other hand, the US administration wants the conference to serve as an umbrella for conducting individual deals with some Arab countries similar to those of Camp David.

The magazine concluded, say-



Zakl Ad-Dustour

ending the Iran-Iraq war, it said that, despite Murphy's recent visit to the Gulf region, and talks with Gulf states' officials, in which he expressed his country's strong desire to end the war, military operations are resumed and navigation in the Gulf and the Hormuz Strait is still threatened.

The magazine added that Murphy's tour only aimed at absorbing anger in the region after the Iran-

The Lebanese crisis and the Syrian role

Al-Orouba a Qatari magazine said that the dramatic political and military developments, currently taking place in Lebanon, demonstrate the current critical phase of the Lebanese crisis, and asserted that all forces which aim to achieve or-

der and stability in Lebanon must work jointly and exert efforts to overcome the prevailing situation.

The magazine added that the resignation of Prime Minister Rashid Karame has disclosed to all Lebanese factions the seriousness of the current situation. It urged them to agree on a compromise, which would lead to a national dialogue.

The magazine concluded, say-

Jerusalem, an urban model of an Islamic city

Part II

By Abdullah Schleifer

When one reads the accounts of travellers to the Holy City one realizes that most of the sectarian quarrels that the travellers complain about occurred within the broadly defined religious communities and not between one community and another. This also suggests that, given the sensitivity inescapably associated with holy sites, there was a certain providential factor at work in the particular harmony that Islamic Jerusalem experienced — a harmony based upon the providentially complementary quality of the traditional, orthodox sensibilities that prevailed until fairly recently in all three religious communities.

The Christian communities have no shrines from which they are excluded on the Haram ash-Sherif, nor do they acknowledge the Haram but as that site of desolation prophesied by Jesus; the very desolation in which the Muslims found it. And at least as late as the summer of 1968 when I left Jerusalem the Chief Rabbi of Israel were still insisting that observant Jews not enter the Haram area.

It is providential that all three orthodox religious communities, one in possession of the Haram, one indifferent to its contemporary status and one in a profoundly self-perceived exile have awaited in their respective places the coming of the Messiah, or, in the case of the Muslims and the Christians, for his second coming.

The veneration with which orthodox Muslims again providentially view the prophets of both Old and New Testament assured in principle that no shrines would be desecrated and frequently Muslim notables were called upon to mediate inter-Christian disputes over access and control of Christian shrines.

To avoid the possibility of encroachment, a status quo convention evolved during Mamluk and Ottoman Islamic rule and was more or less honoured by the British Mandate authorities — a convention based upon extended and recognized ownership and usages of the shrines. Since, at the time of the Mamluks and the first centuries of Ottoman rule, there were no secular, much less religious, Jewish nationalist parties to advance ownership claims even on the Wailing Wall, the status quo was primarily a way to protect Christian sects from encroachment upon each other or to protect them from Muslim encroachment.

Here too is both a model and a challenge to Middle Eastern harmony. Either all parties respect that status quo or risk perpetual religious war. The status quo was first torn to shreds in 1948. Since then, thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of visitors to the shrine of the Holocaust without any sense that they were desecrating the site of a Sufi prayer hall and monastery, or have visited the synagogue of King David's tomb without quite grasping that they were desecrating, with their shoes, the mosque of Nebi Daoud.

Since 1967 the situation has still worsened. The shrine of the Moroccan Saint, Shu'ail Abu Maydan (whose grandfather Sidi Abu Maydan was one of the great muhaddithin and Sufi guides of the twelfth century) along with an entire quarter surrounding the shrine, the Magharba quarter, was demolished by Israeli bulldozers a few days after the fall of the city.

Within a year the prayer hall of the Abu Sa'ud family adjacent to the quarter was also demolished. There have been repeated and increasingly aggressive intrusions

onto the Haram ash-Sherif by Israeli Temple Revivalists, and at the Haram Ibrahim (the tomb of the prophet Abraham) a sister sanctuary in the West Bank city of Hebron to the Haram ash-Sherif, Jewish worshippers and tourists now wear their shoes into the mosque. The choice between restoration of the status quo convention or a permanent invitation to jihad is a central issue that must be explored if the Middle East is ever to be a harmonious environment.

Finally I would suggest Jerusalem as an urbanist model of the Islamic city. All the hallmarks of the traditional Islamic city are present:

• The compressed, spinal-cord quality of the main suq.

• The centrality of the Jumma mosque and the educational institutions and hospices clustered about it.

• A very refined sense of public, semi-public and private space in transition from suq to quarter to neighbourhood, to compound to house to home.

• The outward homogeneity and leadership role of old family elites within the quarters, and weakened the mutual patronage system or mutual aid exchanges of rich and poor members of extended families and client families which, along with other traditional factors such as sharif (honour) and the nobility of piety, did much to offset the differences in wealth.

Secondly, the flight or expulsion of the old Jewish Quarter inhabitants in 1948 — a tragedy, for if we exclude the 1000 or so fighting men who infiltrated there to the dismay of most of its political elders, there were few Jewish communities in Palestine of longer standing and of more compatibility within an Islamic urban civilization than the original and ultra-orthodox inhabitants of the pre-1948 Jewish Quarter. Indeed one of the many tragedies involved in the triumph of political Zionism is that it has so often been the peaceful, non-Zionist Jewish communities who paid the price of Zionist provocateurism. But that harmony did exist is reflected by the extraordinary num-

One of the virtues of a traditional quarter and the even smaller units of residence in a Muslim city (and one still encounters this in old Cairo harats) is a healthy suspicion of strangers, coupled with the redeeming ritual politeness and hospitality offered those with a legitimate reason to visit the quarter.

The very biblical exoticness of Islamic Jerusalem also provided a sufficient culture shock to discourage Western tour groups from wandering off a few main thoroughfares.

To more easily perceive the moral implications of a mindless, gratuitous tourism — a tourism of idle curiosity — I think of what would have been the implication of busloads of rich, oddly dressed Arabs driving through the residential neighbourhood in a New York City suburb where I grew up, and their periodically piling out of their buses to just look around at the way we natives of Forest Hills lived.

I must confess that I now fear for Islamic Jerusalem what has



modesty of residential architectural form that resulted naturally from local material use and conservatism reflecting the Islamic spirit of public conformity.

• Control of vehicular traffic — cars were barred from nearly all of the Old City, and in the most intimate residential areas even animal drawn carts were barred by street barriers to preserve the privacy and tranquility of the neighbourhood.

• The City Wall defines limits. Limits are profoundly important to Muslim sensibility, which is also manifest in the twisting street patterns. The effect is aesthetically pleasing. Everyone can appreciate the new vistas of the twisting city streets but the cause I would suggest is in part metaphysical. Only Allah is infinite and man in his creations does not imitate the Nature of the Creator. And within these finite limits the uses of space become more ingenious and more organically (rather than abstractly) creative — on site design by rule of eye rather than off-site scale.

• The homogeneity and inwardness of quarters. Before 1967 quarter life lost some of its fullest sense, and authentically, then the spiritual ambience of the old cities must be as much our concern as their physical rescue and restoration. That means encouraging religious tourism and minimizing gratuitous tourism.

happened to the traditional quarter of Jaffa — a brilliant restoration job and technically worthy of study — the physical frame of Jaffa's Islamic core brilliantly preserved, the inner structure re-wired, reinforced and replastered. But the moral implications are, to say the least, deeply disturbing — the transfer of a once vital but morally conservative Arab quarter into a Muslim-free bohemian artistic quarter and red light district. May God spare Jerusalem such a restoration.

But consider the implications of the changing nature of tourism to the Islamic city. Before 1967 the dominant motif for non-Muslim visitors was pilgrimage. After 1967 the dominant motif for thousands of Israeli visitors who poured in late Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday was to find a convenient place to violate the Jewish Sabbath. Is the destiny of Islamic Jerusalem to become the sin city of an intrinsically secular Israel?

• Preservation. In the total architectural integrity of the Old City up until 1967 and in what still remains should be inspiration for the old cities of the Middle East. Even the Arab suburbs to the East maintained a certain linkage to the Old City by building on a low rise scale and using locally quarried stone at the very least for facing material. This sort of linkage must be stimulated and in-

creased — the Old City preserved not only for its own sake but as a model of authentic values for the larger and newer quarters.

The major reason why Islamic Jerusalem in all of its quarters was so perfectly preserved prior to 1967 was because Jordanian law respected the principle of waqf, most adequately translated as "pious foundation."

There are two types of waqf — what we might classify as regular and family. Both share the following characteristics: that a property is endowed and made inalienable in the lifetime of its owner and its ownership returns to God, to be administered inevitably by religious scholars (and thus once a source of support and independence for this critically important mediating group — a position undermined by the nationalization of waqf administration in most of the Muslim world).

In the regular waqf, the proceeds of the revenues of the waqf (rents, proceeds of cultural sales, etc.) are designated in perpetuity for purposes pleasing to God — for the benefit of mosques, schools, hospitals, hospices, the maintenance of scholars and assistance to the poor. Family waqf designates ones heirs as immediate beneficiaries but the proceeds are to revert to communal purpose upon extinction of the family line. In either case every document of foundation dedicating property as waqf lays down provisions that it is inalienable, and the document of foundation is irrevocable.

In Jerusalem where almost all of the Old City was waqf and much of that private waqf, this had two effects. The first constituted a form of extended family social security. When rents of a family waqf are subdivided by 20 or 30 owners the returns are so minimal that the wealthier members of the family customarily leave their shares in for redistribution among the poorer members.

But most important, the inalienability of the waqf property, family or regular, drastically reduces land speculation and the inevitable destruction of neighbourhoods that result when restoration improves the land values of a community — as in the gentrification process in American and West European cities.

Jordan's respect for the family waqf, perhaps more than any other factor, enabled the city's architectural fabric to survive for, if the profit at stake is sufficient, private interest usually overwhelms zoning when no other restraints are at work.

That landscape has suffered drastic blows since 1967. Large areas of waqf, both regular and family, have been appropriated by the Israeli authorities and, as in the case of the Quarter, the properties have been demolished. At the same time, extensive archaeological excavation on waqf-administered land has been carried out along the southwestern and western wall of the Haram ash-Sherif despite protests by Jewish authorities — excavations that the Muslim Council of Jerusalem fears threaten the safety of al-Aqsa Mosque which does not rest on a firm foundation like the Dome of the Rock and has been brought down before by earthquakes.

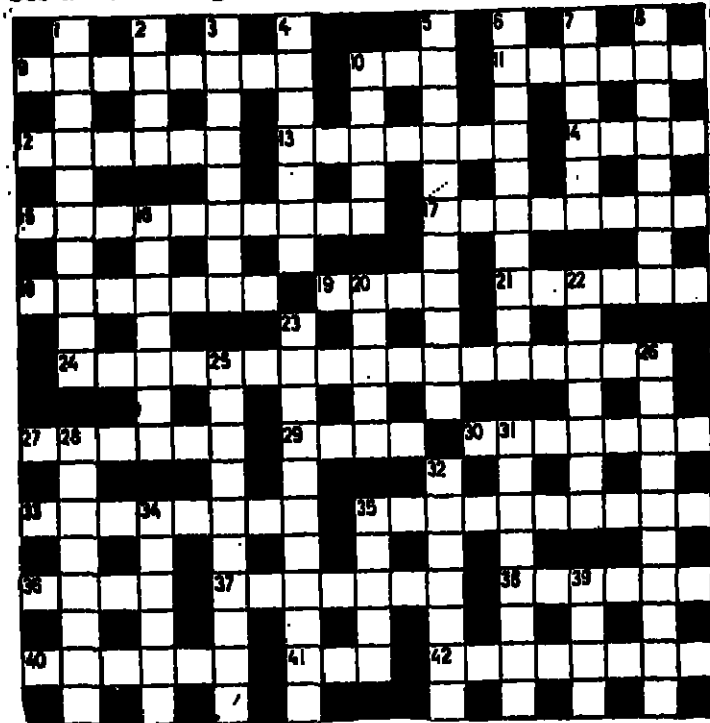
To the Muslim world the success, until 1967 in Islamic Jerusalem of the waqf, both private and regular, in stabilizing urban land values merits serious study, re-evaluation and, I hope, revival. Since so much of the problem is a complex psychological one, I am tempted to suggest that, if and when the waqf is revived or rather de-nationalized, it be passed off as a chic adaptation of the Ford Foundation.

Jerusalem

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Use the same diagram for either the Cryptic or the Easy puzzle



EASY PUZZLE

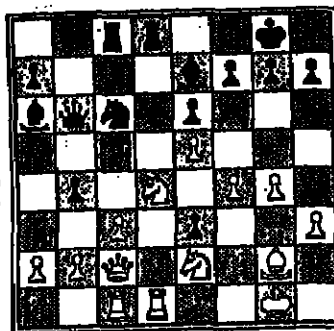
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CRYPTIC SOLUTION

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Chess solution

1. ... KxK1, 2. RxK1, 3. KxR1, 4. RxB1, 5. BxR1, 6. RxB1, 7. BxR1, 8. RxB1, 9. BxR1, 10. RxB1, 11. BxR1, 12. RxB1, 13. BxR1, 14. RxB1, 15. BxR1, 16. RxB1, 17. BxR1, 18. RxB1, 19. BxR1, 20. RxB1, 21. BxR1, 22. RxB1, 23. BxR1, 24. RxB1, 25. BxR1, 26. RxB1, 27. BxR1, 28. RxB1, 29. BxR1, 30. RxB1, 31. BxR1, 32. RxB1, 33. BxR1, 34. RxB1, 35. BxR1, 36. RxB1, 37. BxR1, 38. RxB1, 39. BxR1, 40. RxB1, 41. BxR1, 42. RxB1, 43. BxR1, 44. RxB1, 45. BxR1, 46. RxB1, 47. BxR1, 48. RxB1, 49. BxR1, 50. RxB1, 51. BxR1, 52. RxB1, 53. BxR1, 54. RxB1, 55. BxR1, 56. RxB1, 57. BxR1, 58. RxB1, 59. BxR1, 60. RxB1, 61. BxR1, 62. RxB1, 63. BxR1, 64. RxB1, 65. BxR1, 66. RxB1, 67. BxR1, 68. RxB1, 69. BxR1, 70. RxB1, 71. BxR1, 72. RxB1, 73. BxR1, 74. RxB1, 75. BxR1, 76. RxB1, 77. BxR1, 78. RxB1, 79. BxR1, 80. RxB1, 81. BxR1, 82. RxB1, 83. BxR1, 84. RxB1, 85. BxR1, 86. RxB1, 87. BxR1, 88. RxB1, 89. BxR1, 90. RxB1, 91. BxR1, 92. RxB1, 93. BxR1, 94. RxB1, 95. BxR1, 96. RxB1, 97. BxR1, 98. RxB1, 99. BxR1, 100. RxB1.

SOLUTION

1. ... KxK1, 2. RxK1, 3. KxR1, 4. RxB1, 5. BxR1, 6. RxB1, 7. BxR1, 8. RxB1, 9. BxR1, 10. RxB1, 11. BxR1, 12. RxB1, 13. BxR1, 14. RxB1, 15. BxR1, 16. RxB1, 17. BxR1, 18. RxB1, 19. BxR1, 20. RxB1, 21. BxR1, 22. RxB1, 23. BxR1, 24. RxB1, 25. BxR1, 26. RxB1, 27. BxR1, 28. RxB1, 29. BxR1, 30. RxB1, 31. BxR1, 32. RxB1, 33. BxR1, 34. RxB1, 35. BxR1, 36. RxB1, 37. BxR1, 38. RxB1, 39. BxR1, 40. RxB1, 41. BxR1, 42. RxB1, 43. BxR1, 44. RxB1, 45. BxR1, 46. RxB1, 47. BxR1, 48. RxB1, 49. BxR1, 50. RxB1, 51. BxR1, 52. RxB1, 53. BxR1, 54. RxB1, 55. BxR1, 56. RxB1, 57. BxR1, 58. RxB1, 59. BxR1, 60. RxB1, 61. BxR1, 62. RxB1, 63. BxR1, 64. RxB1, 65. BxR1, 66. RxB1, 67. BxR1, 68. RxB1, 69. BxR1, 70. RxB1, 71. BxR1, 72. RxB1, 73. BxR1, 74. RxB1, 75. BxR1, 76. RxB1, 77. BxR1, 78. RxB1, 79. BxR1, 80. RxB1, 81. BxR1, 82. RxB1, 83. BxR1, 84. RxB1, 85. BxR1, 86. RxB1, 87. BxR1, 88. RxB1, 89. BxR1, 90. RxB1, 91. BxR1, 92. RxB1, 93. BxR1, 94. RxB1, 95. BxR1, 96. RxB1, 97. BxR1, 98. RxB1, 99. BxR1, 100. RxB1.

JEANE DIXON'S
Your Horoscope



ARIES — 21 March-19 April

Attention to detail is the key to getting a deal your boss will be happy with. Check figures with experts; they may have to be revised. A tax question receives a quick answer. You may find yourself under a microscope at a meeting. Make the best possible impression! Politics help you make a point that could improve your neighbourhood. A course sharpens your job skills.

TAURUS — 20 April-20 May

This can be a red letter day for those who know what they are doing. Entertaining at home pays off handsomely. Your ability to solve problems quickly is recognized by management. Taking on extra work will benefit you in a variety of ways. Know that someone up there likes you. Your self-confidence grows and so does your ability to perform under pressure.

GEMINI — 21 May-20 June

You can meet almost any challenge today thanks to your new vantage point. Share a plan with partner or it could fail. You get a financial offer you may not be able to refuse. A mystery could distract you from the need to act quickly. Follow your instincts instead of the crowd. Act on what you know, not what you imagine. Look an opponent right in the eye.

CANCER — 21 June-22 July

Financial backing is easier to obtain. You enjoy spending other people's money, but are very careful with your own cash. Maintain your interest in a special project even if others let you down. Choices are especially important to you now. An improvement in someone's health lifts your spirits too. Share good news with a family member who is overseas. You develop a sense of mission.

LEO — 23 July-22 August

You do best on projects you can handle at your own pace. A leadership role has increasing appeal for you. Develop a career plan and follow it. Romance is in full bloom. Get yourself into a better living environment and any other problems will take care of themselves. You need to keep your own counsel now. There is little you can do about a conflict.

VIRGO — 23 August-22 September

Enhance your wardrobe with colorful accessories. A second job could prove so rewarding that you can quit your primary one. Do not get upset over high-tech changes at work. Go with the flow. Seek companions who have a positive attitude. There are wheels within wheels spinning at work. See if you can replace bad habits with good ones. Your career will move forward.

LIBRA — 23 September-22 October

Do not ask too many questions this week. A sudden change in travel plans will upset some people but work to the advantage of others. Cultivate new contacts. Be more discreet about romance. Make a separate effort to meet deadlines. Take this week to get more organized at both work and home and you will be much more productive next week. Go over bills, checking for errors.

SCORPIO — 23 October-21 November

Communications are in the spotlight, especially those involving relatives and family friends. Pool ideas and resources. Romance develops at an exhilarating pace for singles. Avoid making promises you may not want to keep. You can score important points at a business meeting. A company merger could change your whole life, probably for the best. Encourage a loved one's trust by doing a big favour.

SAGITTARIUS — 22 November-21 December

Someone you have always thought different just takes time to know. Head the advice of an older family member and turn today into an inspiring experience for young and old alike. Define your goals and try not to drift too far away from them. Inner peace comes when you make up your mind about an important relationship. Praise works wonders with a timid person.

CAPRICORN — 22 December-19 January

Reveal family budget after consulting mate and offspring. You could change your mind about an important issue. A friend's opinion can be a source of strength. Romance blossoms. Speak from the heart. Acting on impulse in business or romance could backfire. You shine in competitive situations. Invest in the people you love. Money owed to you is returned with interest. Put extra cash in savings.

AQUARIUS — 20 January-18 February

An out-of-town visitor provides valuable insights concerning a third party. A romantic interlude gives you new hope for the future. A change in lifestyle helps. Attend gatherings where the other guests share your interests. A current relationship is valuable and worth protecting. Children make you proud. Valuable benefits come through new friends. Put your best foot forward.

PISCES — 19 February-20 March

A sense of humour will see you through difficult times. You get moral support from an unexpected quarter. Be a good listener, especially when dealing with teen-agers. Dress your best this week. Have faith in your abilities and try to be patient. You enjoy many blessings that money cannot buy. A slip-up on dates could create confusion for others, but will work in your favour.

Star

Telephone: 664153/4, 667177/8/9
Telex: 21392 MEDIA JO

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651780.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Older Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luwadih. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624690.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwadih, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terrace Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luwadih, mass in Italian languages, most every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622388.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 626383.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah, Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Internationalist: meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmelsani, Tel. 671534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 5th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 611205.

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

Algerian 641271/2
Arab Republic of Yemen 642381/2
Azerbaijan 673481/2
Austria 644655
Austrian Embassy / commercial 674750/674862
Bahrain 654148
Belgium 675683
Brazilian 642169/642183
Bulgarian 638388
Canadian 695124
Chadian 642736
Chilean 661336
Cypriot Honorary Consulate 642663
Czechoslovakian 665105/6
Danish Consulate General 623234
Finnish Consulate (Vice) 623443
French 641273/4
German 641361
German D.R.



Your
TV guide

Channel
2 from

Jordan Television, foreign Programme, Channel 2, from 23-29 May

English Programmes Saturday

- 8:30 Dad's Army, "War Dauce".
- 9:10 Classical Music.
- 10:20 Feature Film, "Murder That Wouldn't Die". Starring: William Conrad and Lane Crutell. In 1942 four army officers raped the wife of another American officer. The said officers are aware of the fact that the woman has some link with a high-ranking army officer. The rape was seen by a journalist who starts to threaten the rapists and blackmail them.

Sunday

- 8:30 Growing Pains.
- 9:10 On The Wheel, documentary.
- 10:20 Miss Marple.

Monday

- 8:30 Three Up, Two Down.
- 9:10 Moonlighting: "All Creature great & Not So Great".
- 10:20 Fair Stood The Wind For France, Episode 3: Franklin's health is greatly improved and his frustrations and sense of futility are gradually overcome as he and Francoise become more closely involved. But more trouble is on the way when local resistance activity brings reprisals from the Germans.

Tuesday

- 8:30 You Again.
- 9:10 New Mini-Series, "Strong Medicine": Arthur Hailey's best-seller comes to life in this dramatic mini-series. One woman fights against industry corruption with the only weapon she has — The Truth. Starring: Ben Cross, Patrick Duffy and Pamela Sue Martin.
- 10:20 The Unknown War.
- 11:10 Bergerac, "A Perfect Recapture."

Wednesday

- 8:30 Dialogue with Muslim Intellectual.
- 9:10 In Search of The Trojan War, last episode: "The Fall of Troy": With the evidence from the preceding programmes in the series, Michael Wood links the archaeological, historical and literary evidence to suggest what may have happened.
- 10:20 The Rebels.

Thursday

- 8:30 Me & My Girl.
- 9:10 The Challenge, episode 5: It is the night of the famous Eve Cup Ball — an occasion packed with tension for the lead players. The New York Yacht Club have dispatched a representative to Holland in an attempt to coerce the Dutch into calling the Basin as the legal designer rather than Lexcen. The head of the Basin stands firm, with the re-

primand to the Club representative, "who designs the house, the architect or the draftsman?"

10:20 Feature Film, "Golden Gate Murders", starring: David Jansen and Susanah York.

The nun was walking on the golden bridge with the priest in San Francisco. She saw a disguised man throwing the priest into the sea. The police did not believe her story and considered the priest to have committed suicide. The sergeant decided to carry on investigating the matter.

Friday

- 8:30 Bill Cosby Show.
- 9:10 Falcon Crest.
- 10:20 Peter The Great, episode 3: Peter resolves to visit a number of Western countries and offers to conclude alliance with them which realize his goals, and seek their assistance for ship building.

French Programmes

Saturday

- 6:00 — Les Nouveaux Mondes, eps.1: A documentary programme? series of 3 episodes about Australia.

- 7:00 — News In French.
- 7:15 — La Force Du Destin.

Sunday

- 05:25 — Une Si Jolie Petite Plage: A French feature film, considered as one of the greatest films of the guerre period. Directed by Gerard Philippe and Jean Servais.

- 7:00 — News In French.
- 7:15 — La Force Du Destin.

Monday

- 6:00 — Faliclen Greveche, Eps.8, the last episode of this tale of a veteran of the Paris commune, with love and adventure.

- 7:00 — News In French.
- 7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

Tuesday

- 6:00 — Agronomie — des voies nouvelles.
- 6:30 — L'ecole Des Fens.
- 7:00 — News In French.
- 7:15 — Il N'y a pas de vie sans eau: A documentary magazine on the use of water.

Wednesday

- 4:45 — Jeannot L'intrepide: A special cartoon for children on the occasion of Al-Ida.



Tom Shaw (Ted Gehring) and Judson Fletcher (Don Johnson) in THE REBELS on Wednesday at 10:20

- 6:00 — Les Annees D'illusion, eps.3, a drama serie.
- 7:00 — News In French.
- 7:15 — The Local Magazine: "Aujourd'hui En Jordanie" produced by Saleh Madi.

Thursday

- 4:30 — Joe Et La Sorciere Tsetseboesse. A special cartoon for children on the occasion of al-Ida.
- 5:30 — Champs-Elysees, first part: variety programme this week's guest is Michele Torr.
- 7:00 — News In French.
- 7:15 — Champs-Elysees, 2nd part.

Friday

- 5:30 — Les Cinq Dernieres Minutes.
- 7:00 — News In French.
- 7:15 — French Varieties.

The Most Popular Records

In US

1. With Or Without You — U2
2. Looking For A New Love — Jody Watley
3. The Lady In Red — Chris De Burgh
4. You Keep Me Hangin' On — Kim Wilde
5. Died In Your Arms — Cutting Crew
6. Heat Of The Night — Bryan Adams
7. Big Love — Fleetwood Mac
8. Always — Atlantic Starr
9. La Isla Bonita — Madonna
10. Talk Dirty To Me — Poison

In UK

1. Let It Be — Ferry Aid
2. La Isla Bonita — Madonna
3. Lean On Me — Club Nouveau
4. Respectable — Mel and Kim
5. Let's wait Awhile — Janet Jackson
6. If You Let Me Stay — Terence Trent D'Arby
7. With Or Without You — U2
8. Can't Be With You Tonight — Judy Boucher
9. Ordinary Day — Curiosity Killed The Cat
10. The Irish Rover — The Pogues and The Dubliners

"Hey, everyone! Simmons here just uttered a discouraging word!"

Accountant street gangs

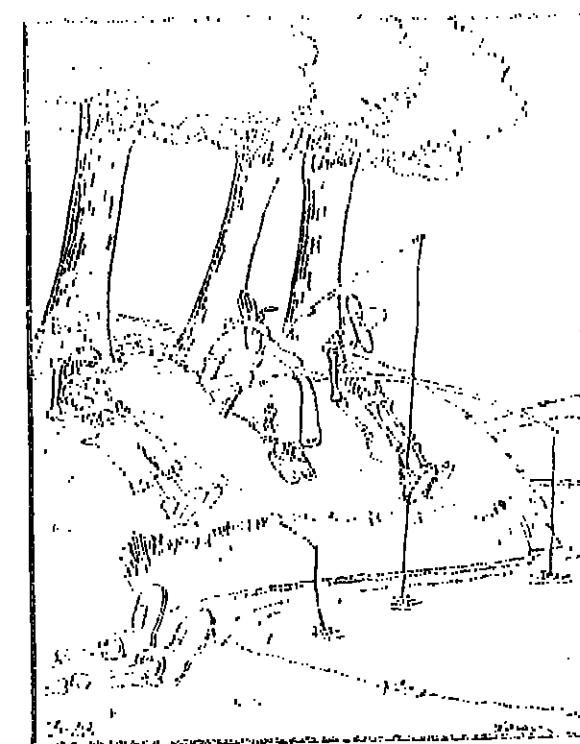
"You ever do this? ... Just sit in a place like this and anwatch."

THE FAR SIDE

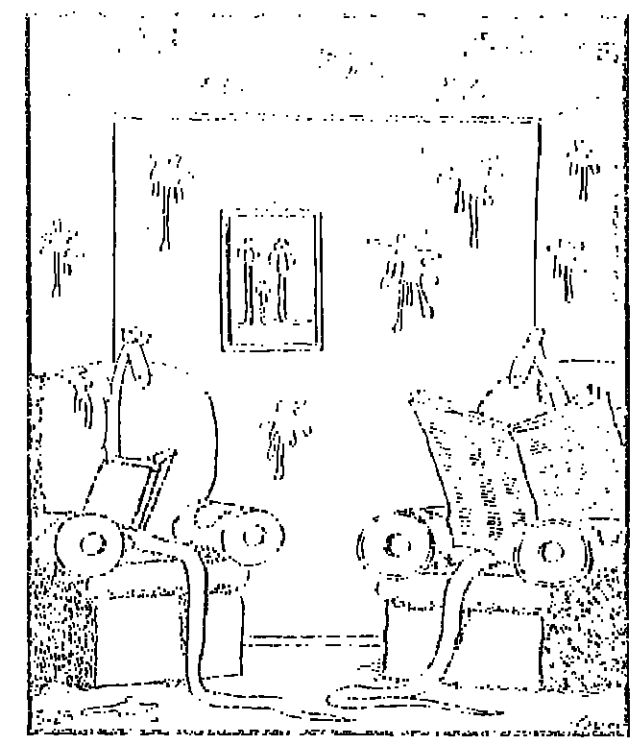
By GARY LARSON



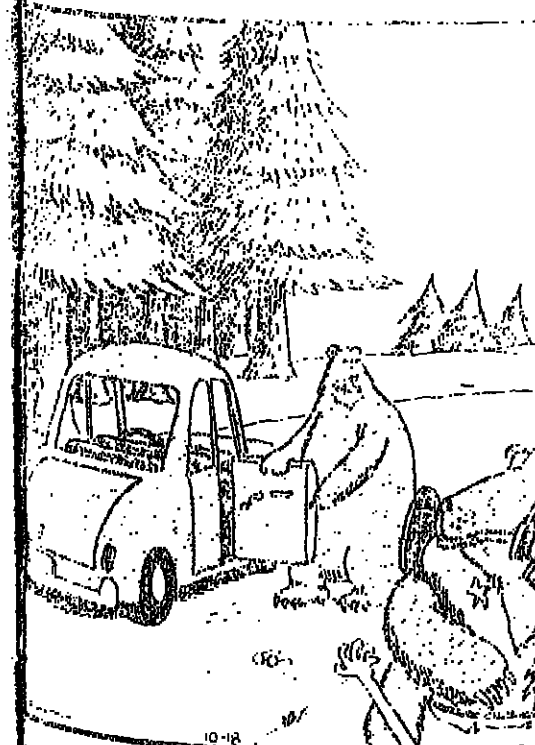
Hannibal's first attempt



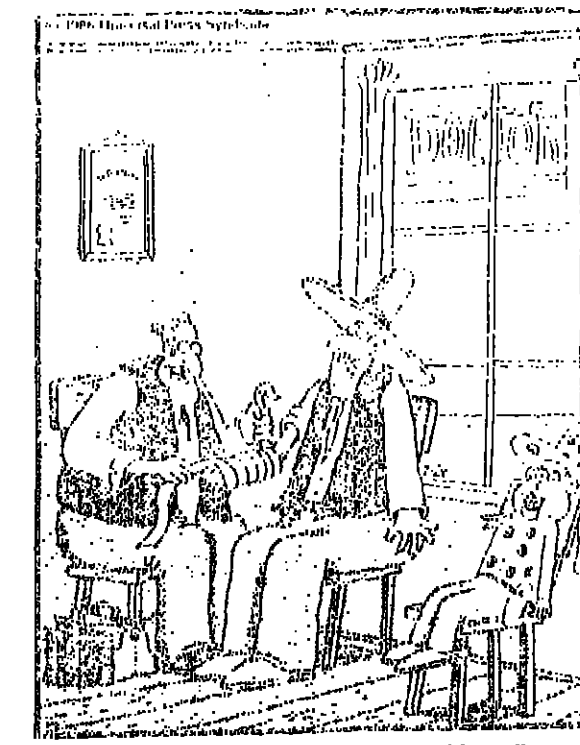
Unlucky fishing holes



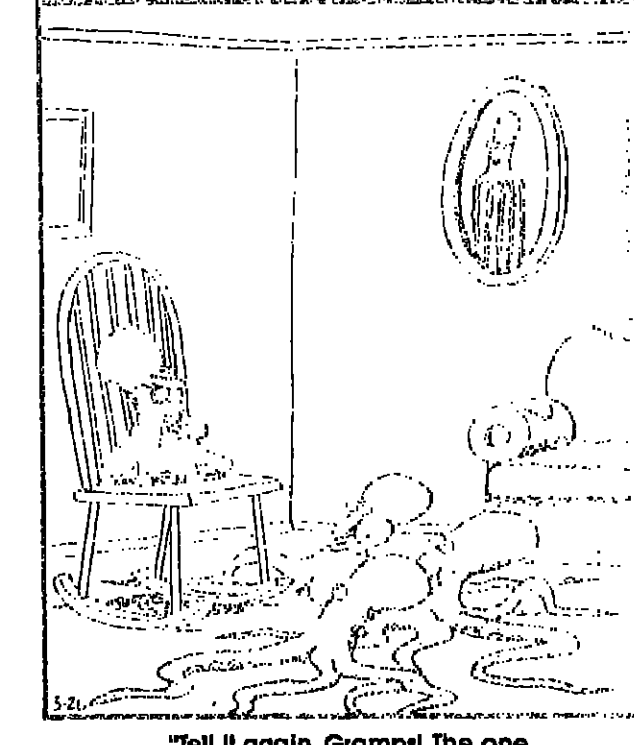
The spilling cobras at home



"Wait a minute, Stan. ... These are good hubcaps. If we don't take 'em, it's a cinch some other bears will."



"You're gonna be OK, mister, but I can't say the same for your little buddy over there. ... The way I hear it, he's the one that mouthed off to them gunfighters in the first place."



"Tell it again, Gramps! The one about being caught in the shark frenzy off the Great Barrier Reef!"